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THE INDEPENDENT

Tuesday 21 April 1998 45p (IR 50p) No 3,590

Newspaper of the Year for photographs

Venice could soon be under water every day

By Michael McCarthy
Environment Correspondent

ST MARK'S Square in Venice could be flooded every day in 50 years' time, according to Britain's leading academic expert on flood control.

Floodings of the square, which have increased from seven per year at the start of the century to between 40 and 60 annually now, will become a daily occurrence by the middle of

the 21st century because of worldwide rises in sea-levels, says Edmund Penning-Rowell, professor of geography at the University of Middlesex.

Rising sea-levels brought about by man-made global warming are likely to equal the 30cm of extra tide height it takes at present to send water pouring into the Doge's Palace and St Mark's Cathedral, says the professor, head of the Flood Hazard Research Centre at the

university. His warning, in a paper in the *Royal Geographical Journal*, written with John Gardiner, an internationally renowned civil engineer, and Peter Winchester, an architect, will be the theme of discussion today at a special conference organised by the Venice in Peril Fund in London on the threat posed by sea-level rise to Venice and other cities.

But most controversial for the conference - and for Italy -

will be three British experts' direct call for the Italian government to scrap its preferred solution to Venice's threat from the sea - a £3.6bn system of concrete "flap gates" fixed on the sea bed at the three entrances to the Venetian lagoon and able to be raised to counter high tides and lowered again to let ships pass.

The scheme, which the Italian government has worked on for 25 years and to which Ro-

mano Prodi, the Italian Prime Minister is due to give the go-ahead later this year, is a waste of money, Prof Penning-Rowell and his colleagues say frankly.

The likely savings in flood damage will in no way justify the cost of the system and with the sea-level rise expected by 2050, the gates will probably have to be closed every day, thus effectively sealing off the lagoon from the sea.

Far better, they say, to plan over the next 50 years to seal off the lagoon by natural means, while tackling its formidable pollution problems caused by industrial and agricultural wastes, and build an interim series of small-scale local flood defence works.

"The gates are a waste of money and they simply don't solve the problem in the long term", Prof Penning-Rowell told the *Independent* yesterday.

"The main objection to them now is how often they would have to close. What happens when they have to be closed every day, as they will? It's a short-term solution." The lagoon could eventually be restored to the shallow coastal marsh it once was, he said.

The Venice in Peril Fund has assembled an impressive range of experts for today's conference at the Courtauld Institute, ranging from Sir John

Houghton, chairman of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, and head of the scientific panel of the UN's Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change, to Roberto Frassetto, one of the Venetian engineers most closely involved with the design of the gates for the lagoon. The conference is being chaired by the Prime Minister's chief environmental adviser, Sir Crispin Tickell.

Arafat and Netanyahu to meet in London summit

By Anthony Bevins
Political Editor
in Gaza City

THE United States is to invite the Israelis and the Palestinians for a summit in London on 4 May, Tony Blair announced at a joint press conference with Yasser Arafat in Gaza last night.

Following the surprise announcement by Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem on Sunday that he was willing to go anywhere, anytime, to further the peace process, Mr Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian Authority, said last night that he, too, was willing to join talks.

"I am not demanding the moon," he said. But he did want progress made on agreements already signed between the Israelis and the Palestinians, particularly the Oslo Accords, which have been stalled since the Israelis started breaking ground to build a controversial new settlement in occupied East Jerusalem more than a year ago.

Mr Arafat said that he would respond positively to American ideas, but added that he wanted an "effective, genuine and strong American role" in implementing the American efforts.

It emerged later that Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat will go to London for bilateral talks with Madeline Albright, the United States Secretary of State, on the issues of Israeli security and the withdrawal of Israel from oc-

cupied territory on the West Bank. Those talks could well be backed up by four-way talks in which Mr Blair could play a supporting role on economic issues.

The US has proposed that Israel withdraw from 13.1 per cent of the disputed land over 12 weeks, with each pullback met by Palestinian security gestures. Israeli officials said last night that Mr Netanyahu is willing to offer a pullback from 11 per cent, up from his earlier limit of 9 per cent.

Following a visit to another Palestinian refugee camp in Gaza yesterday, Mr Blair said: "What they need is hope in their hearts that some progress is going to be made."

Economic issues are important for Gaza because of the poverty of the coastal strip. While it overlooks the Mediterranean, it has no port, let alone airport, and it is hoped that the US and Britain - current holder of the European Presidency - can, together with the Israelis and the Palestinians, create a support momentum using economic development to oil the wheels of political diplomacy.

Mr Arafat insisted last night that the European Union must play a vital and effective role. In Washington, US State Department spokesman James Rubin said that Ms Albright expected the leaders to make "substantive decisions" - indeed the summit has been arranged only on the basis that there



Peace drive: Tony Blair with Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, in Gaza City yesterday. Photograph: AP

are serious negotiations leading to movement on both sides.

Emphasising that point, Mr Blair warned that the overriding necessity was to push forward towards actual, practical progress. He said that if the talks did not go forward, then the process would move backwards - with all the risks that that involved.

A senior source close to yesterday's talks between Mr Blair and Mr Arafat said the "atmosphere" for peace had become much more concrete over the last two days of shuttle diplomacy - with Mr Blair's flying visits to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and then

Jerusalem on Sunday. Mr Blair will have further talks with the Israeli Prime Minister in Tel Aviv this morning, before flying back to London.

The British position is providing a useful lever for the US because Mr Netanyahu believes that Mr Blair understands the Israeli position and its quintessential need for security within defensible boundaries, while Mr Arafat looks to Mr Blair as current holder of the European Presidency to ensure the peace accords are upheld.

Mr Blair is also seen as a man with a strong line of communication with President Bill Clinton.

The impression made on Mr Blair by the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial on Sunday, and his visits to Palestinian refugee camps have strengthened his determination to do all in his power to help.

Last night, in Gaza, he was joined in that determination by Mr Arafat, who said: "We will go anywhere to get the peace process back on track."

Yesterday, with his wife Cherie, the Prime Minister visited schools and projects run by the UN relief agency - responsible for caring for 3.4 million Palestinian refugees.

Leading article, page 20

England team select their own voodoo woman

By Glenn Moore
Football Correspondent

THE days when footballers' injuries were cured with a bucket of cold water and a sponge seemed ever more distant last night, as England revealed the latest signing - a middle-aged female faith healer.

Eileen Drewery, who has assisted the career of Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, since he was 17, has moved into the team's Buckinghamshire hotel to help prepare for the World Cup in France this summer.

Hoddle, a confirmed Christian since a visit to the Walling Wall in Jerusalem 12 years ago, said: "We've been working with her for 18 months and now instead of taking players to her, she comes to us. Three-quarters of the lads [about 20 players] have seen her in the last 18 months. Physically and mentally she can help them. I've never

made a player go - I've suggested it to them." Paul Ince, the England midfielder, said she has been a help to him mentally and physically. "It is one of those things you have to have an open mind about."

Hoddle denied he was holding England up to ridicule and added: "I've been sending players to her since I was managing Swindon. She's saved players' careers. I don't think players understand what she does, but that doesn't matter. You do not need to be religious. I first saw her at 17 and I was not religious then."

Hoddle added, pointing at the ceiling: "If you ask me how it happens, you are asking the wrong person. You'd better ask somebody up there. I've seen plenty of people go to her cyclically and change their minds." Miss Drewery will stay with England until they leave for France on 9 June.

British Library fails to consult its spell-checker



Big mistake: The image - incorporating 3ft high letters - projected on to the British Library building at St Pancras. The projection company has admitted responsibility

By Paul McCann
Media Editor

WHEN former American vice-president Dan Quayle misspelled "potato" on a school visit people could understand it. He was not, after all, famed for his intellectual prowess.

One might think that the British Library, repository of the biggest collection of books in the world and the home of serious learning, would have higher standards. Not so.

All weekend, a slide show beamed onto the outside of the controversial building at St Pancras in London has been promoting the opening of the library's public viewing galleries today. In words three feet high, one image proudly pro-

claims: "The British Library. For the nation's written heritage [sic]."

Even if it is the sort of mistake any major literary institution could make, you have to feel sorry for the press officers at the British Library. Defending a project that took 35 years and £500m to build must be a depressing business and yesterday they had nothing but resigned exasperation at the latest little hiccup.

"Thank you for telling us," said a spokeswoman wearily. "We'll get it fixed. We do care about things like spelling at the British Library, we're supposed to be famous for it."

The projection company for the library has admitted that it was its film processors who

changed the spelling on the slides after they had been checked by library staff.

The library had a limited opening in November after years of political indecision that caused delays and cost over-runs. The launch today is supposed to be a day of good news at last.

In the galleries the public will be able to see - free of charge - treasures such as Shakespeare's First Folio of 1623, the Lindisfarne Gospels, the Magna Carta and the Gutenberg Bible.



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INSIDE GUIDE: WEATHER, P2 • CROSSWORDS, P32 AND EYE P10 • TODAY'S TELEVISION, EYE P12 • FULL CONTENTS, P2

هكذا من الأصل

TOMORROW

■ You're fired!
The right way to give someone the sack

■ Wheel of fortune:
how Picasso's pottery transformed a French town

■ Satin, lace and beads:
Dresses from £200 to £20,000 for spring brides



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Dewar tells police chief to resign

By Kim Sengupta

THE SECRETARY of State for Scotland and a chief constable were at the centre of an extraordinary public confrontation yesterday after an independent report accused a police force of a catalogue of failures and neglect over the murder of a nine-year-old boy.

Donald Dewar said "the buck stops at the top", and Ian Oliver of the Grampian force should "pack his bags and go ... the public, with good reason, will expect no less". But the police chief flatly refused to resign, and in turn demanded "the totally unjustified denigration" of him and his men should stop.

At a hastily convened press conference in Glasgow, Mr Dewar said he was prepared to use his statutory powers to dismiss Mr Oliver. It was clear, he said, that their complaints about the conduct of the case were all founded, and they had good cause to be dissatisfied.

Scott's parents, Dennis and Patsy Simpson, both broke down in tears when they later faced the media. They accused Mr Oliver of being "arrogant" and "naïve".

Mr Oliver has already chosen to take early retirement after an unrelated controversy in February in which a newspaper published a photo of him in an apparent embrace with a married woman. The Chief Constable denied any impropriety, but announced he would be leaving the force later this year. Yesterday he said: "I am not dragging anything out. The whole matter will be dealt with according to procedures."

The Grampian Joint Police Board is due to hold an emergency meeting today. It has the power to dismiss Mr Oliver. Mr Dewar said he hoped they would do so.

found that no one appeared to have taken overall responsibility for the inquiry.

Separate condemnation of the Grampian force came from Sir William Sutherland, Scotland's most senior police inspector. He outlined a force in disarray with too much control from the top, and too little communication at the bottom. He reserved particular criticism for the CID, and revealed two further reports are being compiled about the department. Sir William noted that the Grampian region had rising crime with the lowest detection rate north of the border, when Scotland as a whole was experiencing a significant drop.

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Pupils at the Islamia Primary School in Brent, London, the first Muslim school to enter the state sector, start of term yesterday Photograph: PA

Book deal reopens wounds

FOR THE publishers, Macmillan, it was meant to be a secret project - a literary coup about a murder - but by yesterday it had become an embarrassment, writes Kim Sengupta.

Project X is a book about the child killer Mary Bell, written with her co-operation by journalist and author Giles Sereny. It recounts the killing, 16 years, of four-year-old Martin Brown and Brian Howe, aged three, for which Bell served 12 years.

Despite the secrecy, news leaked out at the weekend prompting an angry response from Martin's mother, June Richardson. "I am absolutely appalled at the thought that someone can make money out of my son's death..." she said. "This brings all the hurt back." A spokesman for Macmillan said: "It is a real blow the story got out the way it did. We wanted to present the book in a sensitive way, and we would have contacted the family."

Apartheid warrior dies, aged 84

By Clare Garner

ARCHBISHOP Trevor Huddleston, who was knighted in the New Years Honours for his lifelong struggle against apartheid in South Africa, died yesterday at the age of 84.

Tributes poured in last night for the man who, as Archbishop Desmond Tutu put it, "single-handedly made apartheid a world issue." Whilst he was greatly saddened by the loss of the "incredible man" who had been such an inspiration to him, Archbishop Tutu added that he was glad his friend of 50 years lived long enough to receive his knighthood.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, added: "Desmond Tutu has attested elsewhere to the influence Trevor Huddleston had on him, but what is less well known is his impact on the lives of thousands of men and women who can trace their calling - as politicians, social workers and

priests - to this man of God. Prophets are rarely comfortable to live with, and Trevor was no exception; but he will be remembered with deep thankfulness for a life lived so powerfully within the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

The Rt Rev Huddleston became famous for his anti-apartheid stance in the Forties and early Fifties, when he was the vicar of Sophiatown, then a multi-racial area in Johannesburg. He had joined the Community of the Resurrection, a religious retreat in Mirfield, Yorkshire, in 1939; and two years later was posted to South Africa, where he formed close friendships with leaders such as the late Oliver Tambo, a former president of the African National Congress, and Nelson Mandela.

In 1959, he founded the Anti-Apartheid Movement, and was later elected its president. During the years that Nelson Mandela was incarcerated

at Robben Island, the Rt Rev Huddleston, the former Suffragan Bishop of Stepney, never gave up. Whenever there was a protest to make or a vigil to keep, it was he who led the way to the South African Embassy in Trafalgar Square.

Father Crispin Harrison, Superior of the Community of the Resurrection, where Archbishop Huddleston died, said: "The Community of the Resurrection has lost a prayerful and diligent priest, pastor and campaigner for the Gospel."

Archbishop Tutu said last night: "He was just an incredible person and the world is a very much better place for having been a friend of Trevor Huddleston. He made sure that apartheid got on to the world agenda and stayed there. Even in South Africa House, where he used to be outside picketing, there is now a bust of him. It is a wonderful sign of what he achieved."

Obituary, page 19

Doctors on killing charge

TWO doctors from Great Ormond Street Hospital have been charged with manslaughter after an inquiry into the death of a young leukaemia sufferer, writes Diana Biamires.

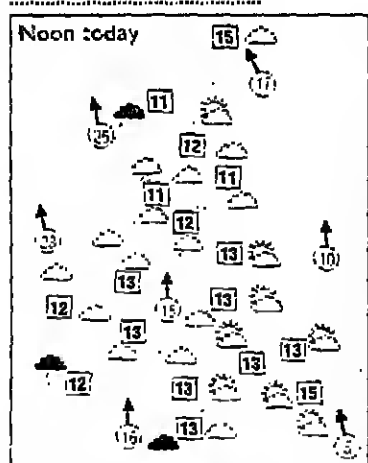
Michael John Tsen Lee, 34, from Finchley Park, north London, and Dermot Matthew Murphy, also 34, from Battersea, south-west London, have been released on police bail.

Police were called in after a coroner ordered an investigation into the circumstances of the death of Richie Williams, aged 12, who died at Great Ormond Street in July 1997.

Richie, of south London, was admitted to Great Ormond Street on 28 July last year for cancer treatment but died two days later, Scotland Yard said.

The St Pancras coroner, Dr Stephen Chan, asked the police to look into the case the following day, and the investigation ended before Christmas last year.

WEATHER



Northern Ireland will be cloudy and blustery with patchy light rain, and this damp weather will push north to affect western Scotland. Eastern Scotland will be mainly dry with a few sunny spells, but mist and low cloud will affect the north-east coast. Most of England and Wales will start cloudy and misty with drizzle rain on the extreme west. Most central and eastern areas will brighten up with warm sunburst breaks through, but western coasts and hills will stay cloudy and misty.

Outlook for the next few days
Tomorrow, Northern Ireland and western Scotland will see some rain. Southern and eastern Scotland will be brighter, although it will be windy on the east coast. England and Wales will be warm with sunny spells but North Sea coasts will be cool and cloudy. On Thursday, it will clear uneventfully in western Scotland and Northern Ireland. Elsewhere, it should be dry and fairly warm, but North Sea coastal counties will be cloudy and cool.

British Isles weather

Local reports available from 10am local time
S: sunny; Cl: cloudy; F: fog; P: rain; M: mist; R: rain; S: sunny; G: good; B: bad; M: moderate; L: low; H: high

Aberdeen	Dr 8-16	Sheerness	C 12-14
Anglesey	C 10-10	Isle of Wight	C 10-10
Ayr	C 10-10	Leamington	C 12-14
Belfast	F 11-12	Leeds	C 12-14
Birmingham	C 11-12	Leicester	C 11-12
Blackpool	C 9-13	Liverpool	Sh 9-12
Bournemouth	C 12-14	London	C 12-14
Brighton	C 11-12	Manchester	Sh 9-12
Bristol	F 11-12	Newcastle	C 12-14
Cardiff	Dr 10-10	Oxford	F 10-12
Carlisle	Dr 10-10	Plymouth	F 11-12
Dover	C 13-15	Scarborough	C 9-12
Exeter	F 11-12	Southampton	Sh 11-12
Edinburgh	C 9-12	Stoke-on-Trent	Sh 12-14
Easton	Sh 14-17	Stroud	F 11-12
Glasgow	C 9-12	Torquay	C 12-14

Air quality

Yesterday's readings

London	Good	SO ₂	Good
Manchester	Good	NO ₂	Good
Sheffield	Good	PM ₁₀	Good
Cardiff	Good	PM ₁₀	Good
Edinburgh	Good	PM ₁₀	Good
Glasgow	Good	PM ₁₀	Good
Belfast	Good	PM ₁₀	Good
Blackpool	Good	PM ₁₀	Good
Bournemouth	Good	PM ₁₀	Good
Brighton	Good	PM ₁₀	Good
Bristol	Good	PM ₁₀	Good
Birmingham	Good	PM ₁₀	Good
Cardiff	Good	PM ₁₀	Good
Carlisle	Good	PM ₁₀	Good
Dover	Good	PM ₁₀	Good
Exeter	Good	PM ₁₀	Good
Edinburgh	Good	PM ₁₀	Good
Easton	Good	PM ₁₀	Good
Glasgow	Good	PM ₁₀	Good

Out and about with AA Roadwatch

Call 0336 401777 to the latest road and traffic reports. Some severe weather warnings remain in force.

World weather

Major cities available from 10am local time

Aberdeen	Dr 8-16	Sheerness	C 12-14
Anglesey	C 10-10	Isle of Wight	C 10-10
Ayr	C 10-10	Leamington	C 12-14
Belfast	F 11-12	Leeds	C 12-14
Birmingham	C 11-12	Leicester	C 11-12
Blackpool	C 9-13	Liverpool	Sh 9-12
Bournemouth	C 12-14	London	C 12-14
Brighton	C 11-12	Manchester	Sh 9-12
Bristol	F 11-12	Newcastle	C 12-14
Cardiff	Dr 10-10	Oxford	F 10-12
Carlisle	Dr 10-10	Plymouth	F 11-12
Dover	C 13-15	Scarborough	C 9-12
Exeter	F 11-12	Southampton	Sh 11-12
Edinburgh	C 9-12	Stoke-on-Trent	Sh 12-14
Easton	Sh 14-17	Stroud	F 11-12
Glasgow	C 9-12	Torquay	C 12-14

INDEPENDENT Weatherline

For the latest weather forecasts, visit our website at www.independent.co.uk/weather

High tides	AM	PM	HT
London	05:15	09:30	21.42
Edinburgh	06:15	10:15	20.40
Cardiff	07:15	11:15	19.40
Belfast	08:15	12:15	18.40
Blackpool	09:15	13:15	17.40
Bournemouth	10:15	14:15	16.40
Brighton	11:15	15:15	15.40
Bristol	12:15	16:15	14.40
Birmingham	13:15	17:15	13.40
Cardiff	14:15	18:15	12.40
Carlisle	15:15	19:15	11.40
Dover	16:15	20:15	10.40
Exeter	17:15	21:15	09.40
Edinburgh	18:15	22:15	08.40
Easton	19:15	23:15	07.40
Glasgow	20:15	24:15	06.40

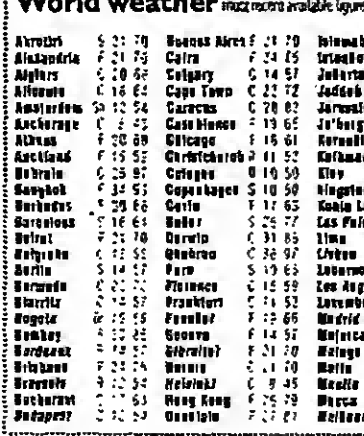
Lighting-up times

London	05:15	09:30	21.42
Edinburgh	06:15	10:15	20.40
Cardiff	07:15	11:15	19.40
Belfast	08:15	12:15	18.40
Blackpool	09:15	13:15	17.40
Bournemouth	10:15	14:15	16.40
Brighton	11:15	15:15	15.40
Bristol	12:15	16:15	14.40
Birmingham	13:15	17:15	13.40
Cardiff	14:15	18:15	12.40
Carlisle	15:15	19:15	11.40
Dover	16:15	20:15	10.40
Exeter	17:15	21:15	09.40
Edinburgh	18:15	22:15	08.40
Easton	19:15	23:15	07.40
Glasgow	20:15	24:15	06.40

Sun & moon

London	05:15	09:30	21.42
Edinburgh	06:15	10:15	20.40
Cardiff	07:15	11:15	19.40
Belfast	08:15	12:15	18.40
Blackpool	09:15	13:15	17.40
Bournemouth	10:15	14:15	16.40
Brighton	11:15	15:15	15.40
Bristol	12:15	16:15	14.40
Birmingham	13:15	17:15	13.40
Cardiff	14:15	18:15	12.40
Carlisle	15:15	19:15	11.40
Dover	16:15	20:15	10.40
Exeter	17:15	21:15	09.40
Edinburgh	18:15	22:15	08.40
Easton	19:15	23:15	07.40
Glasgow	20:15	24:15	06.40

Atlantic chart, noon today



Low 2 will become slow moving

Low 2 will become slow moving as Low F moves west. Low 1 will be stationary.

Michael Hanlon

WEATHER WISE
THE topsy-turvy weather we've had to put up with in the past few days serve as a vivid illustration of just how awful a month April can be. Everyone knows, more or less, where they are in winter. In January and February, typically, Britain is in the grip of the Atlantic depressions, bringing windy, wet but usually not too cold weather from the west. Sometimes northerly winds will bring snow. In summer, mild damp Atlantic air can ruin Wimbledon, but in most years there will be at least a couple of weeks' worth of hot dry conditions brought on by a big, fat summer anticyclone. And autumn has all those pretty colours. But just about anything goes in April. I was amazed

Michael Hanlon

last Wednesday to look out from our perch in the Canary Wharf (lower to see Docklands being pelted with snow. It didn't last long, but it was as much snow as I had seen in England all winter. I remember the same thing happening in April, back in 1989, driving across Salisbury Plain. From nowhere, a blizzard struck - and surprised motorists started skidding into walls and into each other. The week before last, we had floods. The Thames at Windsor, normally a torpid stream, took on the appearance of an Appalachian white-water torrent. This time last year, however, I remember snatching a nap on Brighton beach. After Christmas, April is apparently the worst time of year for suicides. This surprises people, imagining a month of sunshine, breezes and light showers, weekends in Paris and country walks. But this is just mendacious PR and the suicide figures shouldn't surprise anyone. April is confusing, a nuisance and a danger to one's health. Truly the cruellest month.

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In the best possible taste? A peek inside Lord Irvine's apartments

By Ian Burrell
Home Affairs Correspondent

THE lid remains unlifted on Lord Irvine's throne. The Lord Chancellor yesterday allowed the world's media to inspect the controversial refurbishment of his official residence but ruled that his toilet was out of bounds.

Norah Dobinson, the Lord Chancellor's train-bearer, was given the role of chamber attendant and told to guard the toilet door while frustrated reporters contented themselves with bouncing on Lord Irvine's bed. Officials involved in the £650,000 publicly funded refurbishment denied that the Lord Chancellor's celebrated convenience had been made in the style of Augustus Pugin and claimed it was a standard Victorian model of the kind that "you would find in any stately home".

A member of the Lord Chancellor's staff later confided that the toilet - a box-style water closet with an oak surround - was a cannibalised affair, not as impressive as that belonging to Lord Halsbury, one of Lord Irvine's predecessors.

Instead, the focus of attention became Lord Irvine's pineapple-design flock wallpaper, derided by one critic for creating the ambience of a tandoori restaurant, but costing £300 a roll and £60,000 in total.

It was created by a north London company, John Perry, which owns the blocks for Pugin's original designs, and followed research to match the Victorian architect's original colours.

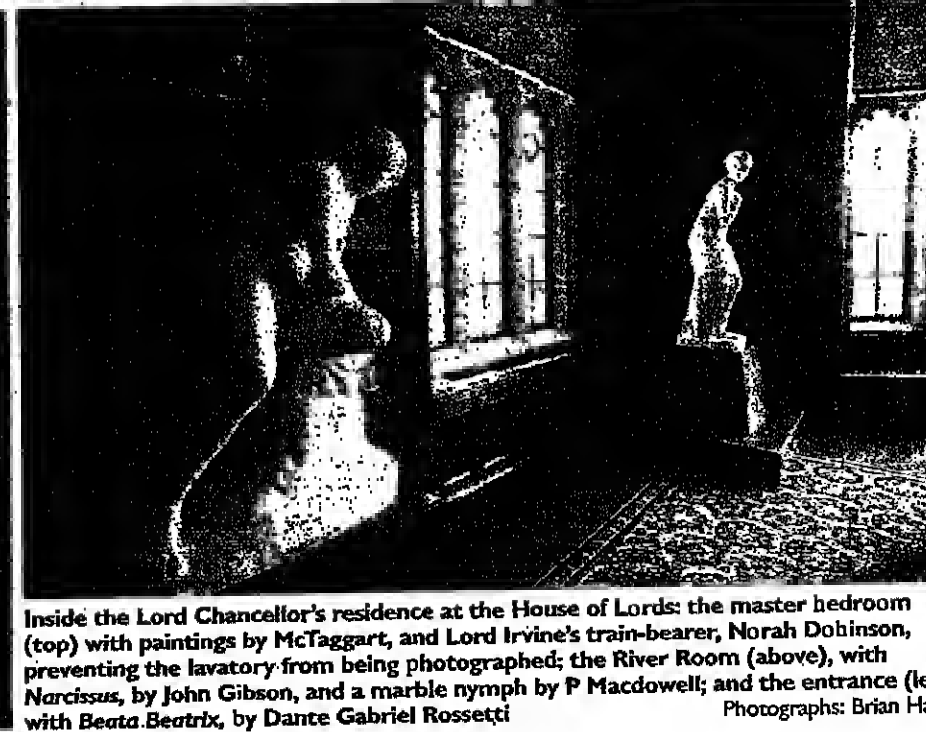
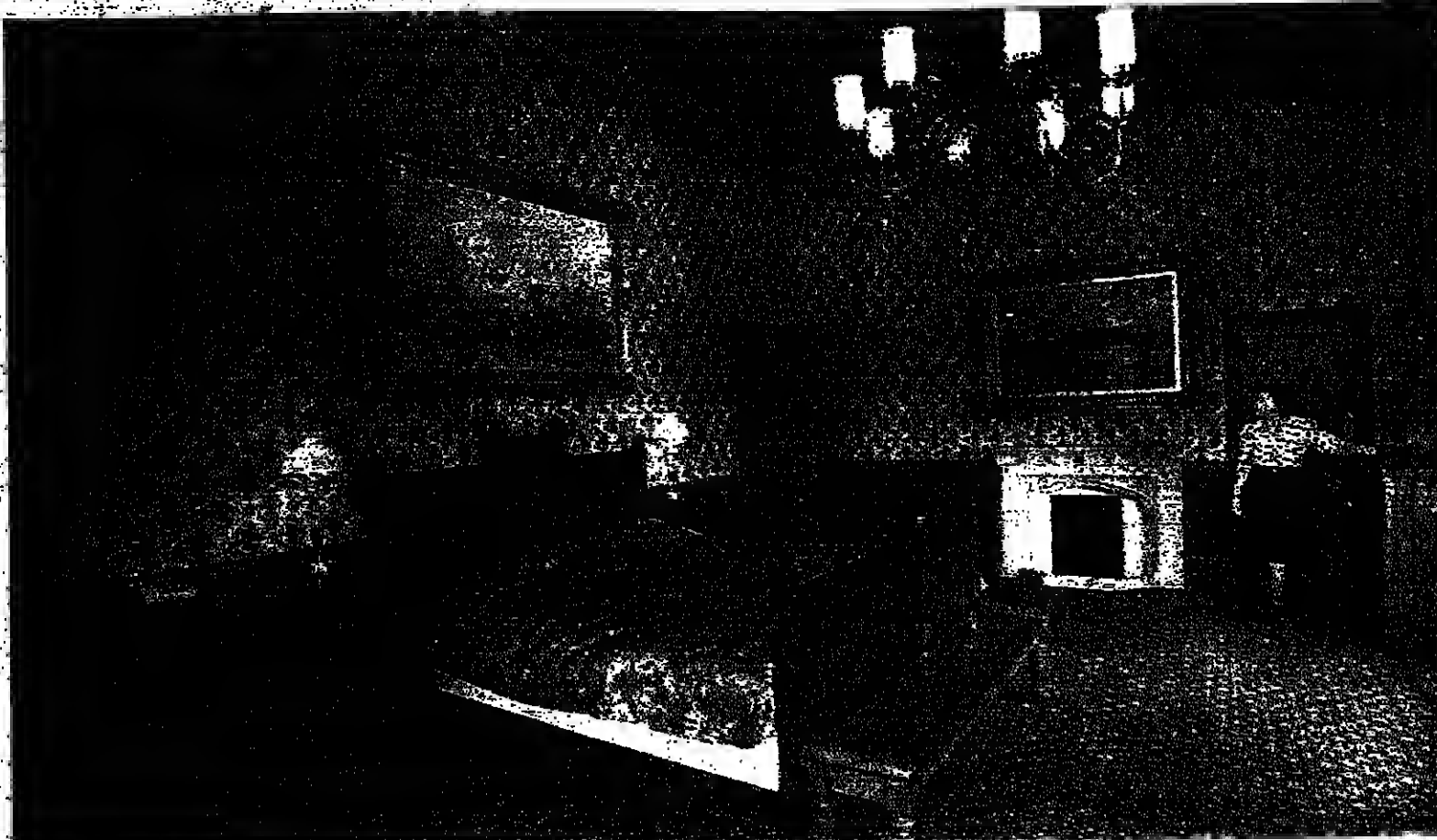
After fire damage to the Palace of Westminster in 1834, Pugin won the right to redecorate the interior in a Gothic revival style. Lord and Lady Irvine, who is an art historian, were anxious faithfully to recreate his vision.

The residence, which was last decorated in 1987, is one of two left in the palace. The other is for Benji Boothroyd, Speaker of the Commons.

Visitors are greeted by the sight of Dante Gabriel Rossetti's *Beatrice*, one of 80 paintings borrowed from galleries including the Royal Academy, the Imperial War Museum and the National Gallery of Scotland.

A terracotta-painted corridor, designed to give a favourable setting for a collection of nineteenth-century etchings, leads on to a series of rooms overlooking Victoria Park.

The centrepiece of the maroon-coloured dining room is a 10-place £14,000 oak table made by the Edward Barnsley workshop in Hampshire. Diners eat before a Brangwyn oil painting of a game-laden mar-



Inside the Lord Chancellor's residence at the House of Lords: the master bedroom (top) with paintings by McTaggart, and Lord Irvine's train-bearer, Norah Dobinson, preventing the lavatory from being photographed; the River Room (above), with *Narcissus*, by John Gibson, and a marble nymph by P. Macdowell; and the entrance (left) with *Beatrice*, by Dante Gabriel Rossetti

Friends salute courage of Linda McCartney

By David Lister
Arts News Editor

THE AFFECTION in which Linda McCartney was held became evident yesterday as heartfelt tributes were made from the Prime Minister, celebrities, charity workers and friends.

And Sir Paul McCartney's assistant, Geoff Baker, said the former Beatle - back with his family at his Sussex farmhouse - was still in a state of shock after the death of his wife from cancer.

Mr Baker said: "He is being incredibly brave. It's almost impossible to put this into words because they were the ultimate soul mates. But throughout their married life they were like each other's twin. No couple - in fact no mum and dad and their four children - could have been closer."

Mr Baker went on to reveal how Lady McCartney had been extremely active in the last few months - perhaps more than she had ever been - and had even recorded a number of her own songs, which are set to be released.

"She has recorded some of her own tracks - I think there are at least six - and Paul is determined that it will go on as planned," he said.

He also spoke of the bewilderment at the suddenness with which Lady McCartney's illness had returned: "She started feeling unwell again while she was enjoying a break in America to freshen her up for her new book launch later this year. She had not gone to the States for any new treatment."

Meanwhile, former Beatle Ringo Starr yesterday said Lady McCartney's "positive courage" as she battled against cancer had been "truly inspiring". He added: "Both Barbara [Bach, his wife] and I would like to say how sorry we are. We were privileged

to have known her - her positive courage through her illness was truly inspiring."

Dr Anthony Leatham, head of the Breast Cancer Research Group, said: "The main problem of breast cancer and the cause of Linda's tragic death is secondary spread. By the time the lump is detected in the breast it is likely to have already spread to grow in other organs and that is why our research is focused on secondary spread."

Lady McCartney had been a keen supporter of the charity Bacup, which provides information, counselling and support for people with cancer as well as their family and friends.

Chief executive Jean Mossman said: "Last year she designed and produced special Christmas cards for us using her photographs. She did so much to dispel the anxiety and fear surrounding breast cancer. Her courage in facing this disease has been an inspiration to all women affected by breast cancer."

The Vegetarian Society yesterday described Lady McCartney, a keen vegetarian, as "a visionary".

And the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, spoke of Lady McCartney's "tremendous contribution" to British life.

Yoko Ono, widow of former Beatle John Lennon, said she was deeply saddened to hear of Linda McCartney's death.

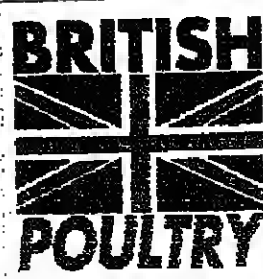
A month ago, Lady McCartney said her three-year battle against breast cancer was over and she told *OK* magazine: "I'm back." She added that after 30 years of marriage she and Sir Paul still felt like love-struck teenagers. She said since their children had left home the couple had had time to re-discover simple pleasures like going to the theatre together.

Leading article, page 20
The photographer, page 15
Obituary, page 19

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America's super-rabbi takes on the mantle of Hugo Gryn

IN THE NEWS

MARK WINER

THE 18-month dispute over the successor to Hugo Gryn, the late senior rabbi of Britain's leading Reform Synagogue, officially ended last night with the appointment of American super-rabbi, Mark Winer.

An "overwhelming" number - 77.5 per cent - of members of the West London Synagogue voted in favour of Dr Winer becoming the new senior rabbi. It was announced at the annual general meeting. A veil was drawn over the remaining 22.5 per cent, the majority of whom were presumably rooting for Rabbi Jacqueline Tabick, Hugo Gryn's deputy for 20 years and a popular candidate to replace him. No other British rabbi had put their name forward, partly out of respect for her.

David Leav, president of the synagogue, thanked those who had been involved in what was a long and drawn-out, divisive election process, adding: "It is a great excitement that all of us now look forward to a truly exceptional team of Rabbi Mark Winer and Rabbi Jacqueline Tabick leading the West



Rabbi Mark Winer: Seen as counterweight to Chief Rabbi

London Synagogue forward into the next century."

Whether or not relationships at the synagogue have been irrevocably soured remains to be seen. It is, as Rabbi Jonathan Romain, minister of Maidenhead synagogue, and probably the leading British

THE WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE

Membership is mainly middle class and highly articulate. It includes the actresses Maureen Lipman and Felicity Kendal, as well as judges, barristers, academics, industrialists and media folk.

Built in 1870, it is known as the cathedral synagogue - the prestige venue for Jewish society weddings. It was the first Reform synagogue and one of the largest across the denominations. Rabbi Winer, was born in Utah and raised in Texas. He is President of the National Council of Synagogues, the umbrella group for the Reform and Conservative movements in the United States, and is known for his negotiating skill.

candidate for the post, said "an opportunity for healing" - both within the West London Synagogue and between the various movements within Anglo-Jewry.

It was only after Rabbi Gryn's death in August 1996 that the British public realised the rift within Judaism. In a leaked letter to an ultra-Orthodox rabbi, regarding his memorial service, Dr Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi, referred to Dr Gryn as a "wrecker of the faith" and described himself as the greatest enemy of the Progressive movements.

All eyes will be on Rabbi Winer for the next few months. He is an outsider, an unknown quantity as far as most of the congregation is concerned. He was headhunted from the United States, and many believe, brought in as a heavyweight who could

take on the Chief Rabbi. One member of the selection panel said of him: "He played a key role in the development of diplomatic relations between Israel and the Vatican - at Israel's invitation. It's very important for Reform Judaism that we have a national high-profile figure. We have to have someone equal to Sacks as a counterweight."

Like Dr Sacks, Rabbi Winer has a secular academic background to his religious rabbinic training. He is a tall, physically imposing man, with impressive academic credentials. He has a first class degree from Harvard and a doctorate from Yale.

A council of six, including two women and the vice-chancellor of London University, unanimously voted for Rabbi Winer. However, a vociferous wing of the synagogue objected to the passing up of Rabbi Tabick, and the decision went to a postal ballot.

Some members felt that turning down Rabbi Tabick was a betrayal of Reform Judaism's proud feminist record. But David Walsh, the former chairman of the Reform Movement, who chaired the council, described suggestions that Rabbi Tabick was overlooked because she is a woman as "insulting".

Ulster amnesty could include Scots Guards

By Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

THE early release of two Scots Guardsmen serving life sentences for murder on duty in Ulster could be speeded up as part of the release of prisoners under the Northern Ireland peace settlement. MPs were told yesterday.

Mr Mowlem, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said Jim Fisher, 29, from Ayrshire, and Mark Wright, 24, from Arbroath, who were imprisoned following the shooting

of a Belfast teenager in 1992, were covered by the terms of Good Friday peace agreement.

Lord Dubs, the minister in the Lords, went further by telling peers a decision on their future "might be accelerated".

The release of the two soldiers, whose appeal is also due to be heard in October, could help to quell growing unease about the early release on licence of around 400 loyalist and republican prisoners.

Deep Tory unrest over the issue of prisoner release yesterday threat-

ened to upset the bipartisan tone in the Commons, when Ms Mowlem made a statement to MPs confirming the terms of the peace settlement.

All three mainland party leaders - Tony Blair, William Hague for the Tories and Paddy Ashdown, for the Liberal Democrats - signalled yesterday they are ready to go to Northern Ireland to lead the united campaign for a "yes" vote to endorse the settlement in the referendum on 22 May.

The President of the United

States, Bill Clinton, is also ready to support the campaign, but may forestall a visit to avoid it being counter-productive with the Unionist voters.

The Government is determined to keep up the momentum, and the legislation putting the referendum and the terms of the settlement into effect is being rushed through the Commons on Wednesday under the parliamentary orders procedures, which shortcuts the system at Westminster.

A new sentence review body is

being set up to look at each prisoner on a case by case basis, Ms Mowlem told the Commons. Most prisoners would qualify for release on licence within two years, but if the peace holds, the remainder will also be released at that point.

Parliamentaries on both sides of the Northern Ireland divide have welcomed the release of their prisoners. Ms Mowlem said: "Let me be clear - this is not an easy issue for anyone but it is an indispensable part of this agreement."

She sought to calm fears by in-

sisting that any prisoners who were released on licence could be returned to prison if they returned to violence. And it will not apply to any offences committed after the settlement on 10 April.

Cross-party praise was heaped on Mr Blair, the Secretary of State, and other key players for the success in achieving the agreement, but that failed to mask the deep reservations in the Tory ranks.

Desmond Swayne, a right wing Tory backbencher, accused the Government of establishing a separate

category of "political crime" in Britain for the first time by allowing the releases. Quentin Davies, another outspoken Tory, broke the bipartisan mood in the Commons by claiming that criminals could negotiate an amnesty if enough people were killed.

Kate Hoey, the Labour MP who is also a strong Unionist, warned Ms Mowlem that the early release of prisoners could be the issue on which the settlement could founder unless it was dealt with "very very carefully indeed".

Tate appoints outsider as director of new gallery

By David Lister
Art & Leisure Editor

THE Tate Gallery has bypassed the British art world to appoint a Swede as director of the Tate Gallery of Modern Art, which will open in the year 2000.

Heading the country's first national modern art gallery was the biggest job to come on the market in the contemporary art world for some years - even though the new director will still be answerable to overall Tate director Nicholas Serota.

The Tate's trustees, in consultation with Mr Serota, have decided to appoint 44-year-old

perhaps surprising that we have not had a foreign director of a major museum in this country previously.

He confirmed that there had been 20 applications for the job and a final shortlist of six, with two of those from Britain. Among names thought to have been considered for the job were Sandy Nairne, assistant director at the Tate, and Julia Peyton Jones, head of the Serpentine Gallery in London.

Mr Serota said there would be a team approach to the new museum, but Banksie would now have his own director just as the Tate in Liverpool does. The new gallery would ask questions such as "What does Picasso mean to us, what does Matisse mean to us, what is the significance of the Rothko room?" The Tate Gallery in Millbank will devote itself to the history of British art once the new museum opens.

Trying to define his own artistic preferences, Mr Nitive would not name individual artists, but said that he had grown up deeply influenced by the minimalist generation.

He added: "With the benefit of superb architecture in an outstanding location, and thanks to the Tate's extraordinary collection, the Tate Gallery of Modern Art has the potential to become one of the foremost museums of modern art in the world. Alongside the grand vision, I see this as a museum deeply rooted in its local community, and it is that fusion of global thinking with local life and action that, for me, makes Banksie so exciting."

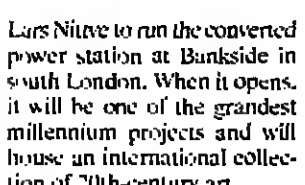
Asked if he was looking forward to coming to Cool Britannia, Mr Nitive replied: "Great Britain really does seem to be bursting with creative energy at the moment, cool or not."

On the question of free admission, Mr Serota said that it remained policy for the Banksie museum to be free, but added ominously that that would depend on the extent of resources at the time and the government's attitude.

Richard Jarmann has been appointed interim artistic director of the Royal Opera House on a fixed term two-year contract. The former director of Scottish Opera will look after artistic planning for the opera and ballet companies during the redevelopment of the house. The post of general director has been advertised.



Banksie Tate director Nitive (top) and overall director Serota



Lars Nitive to run the converted power station at Banksie in south London. When it opens, it will be one of the grandest millennium projects and will house an international collection of 20th-century art.

Mr Nitive has been the director of the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Copenhagen, Denmark, since 1995. He was born in Stockholm and has written extensively on modern art.

Mr Serota said yesterday that the appointment emphasised that the new museum would be a truly international one. "We live increasingly in an international world," he said. "Half a dozen directors of major museums in America are not American, and it is



Journey's start: Irene Benjamin setting off from Glasgow yesterday on Dales pony Gemma for her attempt at a record 1,250-mile ride raising funds to save rare breeds of horse and pony. Riding side-saddle after an accident that threatened to leave her paralysed, she aims to finish at the Surrey County Show on 25 May. Photograph: Colin McPherson

TUC offers deal to ministers over trade union recognition

By Barrie Clement
Labour Editor

THE TUC yesterday offered to strike a deal with the Government to prevent a damaging confrontation over union rights in the workplace.

As part of the compromise, unions have reluctantly accepted that a simple ballot majority would not be sufficient to enforce union recognition.

Bowing to the views of the Prime Minister, who is keen to erect substantial barriers before union rights are granted, the TUC has agreed to a more stringent test of support, given that there might be a low turnout in a vote.

In a paper to be presented to ministers, unions will suggest that 30 per cent of all those eligible to vote will need to endorse recognition before it is enforced. As revealed in *The Independent* yesterday, Tony Blair's advisers had privately

suggested that the proportion should be 40 per cent.

John Monks, TUC general secretary, dismissed the employers' figure as "far too high". He hoped the TUC's gesture, which echoed the kind of test applied by conciliation service Acas in the 1970s, would break the impasse which has dogged talks involving senior trade unionists and the Government.

Informed union sources yesterday believed that the decision, endorsed by the TUC's ruling general council, would expedite matters and that the Government would publish its conclusions by the end of the week.

In reply to a demand from the Confederation of British Industry that small firms must be excluded from the law, the TUC suggested there should be a straightforward test of union membership at organisations with 10 or fewer employees. He said that where more than half the workforce were unionised,

the law should apply. Such an arrangement should cover all companies which in some cases would obviate the necessity for ballots. In its submission to the Government, the CBI suggested that companies with fewer than 50 employees should be exempt, but unions have argued that such a limit would disenfranchise some 7 million workers.

Yesterday's statement was issued partly to spike the guns of the more militant delegates to the Scottish TUC's annual conference in Perth. Union leaders in London were concerned that undue slowness from north of the border would alienate key ministers.

The TUC also suggested yesterday that ballots on recognition should be conducted at the workplace rather than by post, but such a stipulation could be sacrificed in further discussions with ministers over the next few days.

Mr Monks intimated that other commitments on employment rights in the Labour Party manifesto would be included in the White Paper *Fairness at Work*, which will contain the proposals on union recognition.

The Government's proposals will envisage a law which will allow employees involved in lawful industrial action to claim unfair dismissal where necessary.

There will also be measures to outlaw discrimination against trade unionists and there will be a blanket right for workers to be represented by union officials. Unions also understand that there will be enhanced rights to parental leave, and action against "zero hours" contracts.

It is also understood that the government will reduce the qualifying period for employment rights, such as protection against unfair dismissal from two years to one year.

Nanny, 26, accused of injuring baby

AN Australian nanny has been charged with causing grievous bodily harm to a six-month-old girl, currently in a critical condition at Great Ormond Street Hospital, London. Louise Nicole Sullivan, 26, appeared before magistrates in London yesterday and was remanded for a week. The girl, who was in Ms Sullivan's care, was taken to hospital last Friday.

BT admits ear damage

BRITISH Telecom will have to pay out thousands of pounds in compensation after admitting it was to blame for ear damage suffered by some of its employees, a solicitor claimed yesterday.

The worst affected of the 20 telephone operators, who received acoustic shock from piercing noises coming through their headsets, could get up to £100,000 each, according to solicitor Adrian Fawcett. He said many other telephone workers who had also suffered hearing damage were coming forward.

A spokesman for BT said all the equipment used by its operators since the cases emerged had been changed.

No action over puddle death

THE Crown Prosecution Service yesterday said it would take no further action in the case of a three-year-old boy found dead in a puddle. Louis Wedge from Malby, South Yorkshire was found dead on a disused railway line on 4 April.

A 15-year-old girl with learning disabilities and a three-year-old boy were questioned about the incident by police.

War crimes hearing

A MAN aged 77 appeared in Bow Street magistrates' court, London, yesterday charged with murdering five people under the 1991 War Crimes Act.

Anthony Sawoniuk, of Bermondsey, south London, is accused of killing the five Jews during the Second World War in the Nazi-occupied Belorussian town of Domachevo between September and December 1942. He was released on conditional bail.

Diana body guard resigns

TREVOR Rees-Jones, the bodyguard who survived the Paris car crash which killed Diana, Princess of Wales and two others, has informed Harrods boss Mohamed Al Fayed that he is resigning.

In a statement issued yesterday through his solicitor, Mr Rees-Jones said he had resigned in order to "move forward" with his life after the tragic events of last August.

Company theft charges

THE finance director of the Owen Oyston Group of companies appeared in court yesterday charged with stealing more than £235,000. Allan Robin Oakley, 45, of Rossall, Fleetwood, Lancashire, was remanded in custody by Preston magistrates. Mr Oakley faces two separate charges alleging the theft of cash belonging to the media group before July and August of last year.

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Residents protest against Cooke

ANGRY residents yesterday met police and community leaders amid fears that child killer and paedophile Sydney Cooke may be moving into their area.

Reports at the weekend suggested that the 71-year-old would be transferred into a bail hostel in the St Paul's area of Bristol. But around 100 people vented their anger at the proposal, which they say would be a disaster for the troubled area.

Superintendent Steve Allen, who is based in the district's police station, said: "We don't want Sydney Cooke in the central Bristol district because he presents very difficult policing problems. But there is no community who does want him."

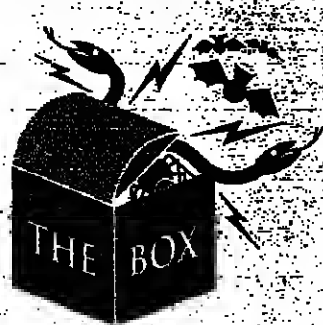
The officer stressed that Mr Cooke, who was released from prison on 6 April after serving nine years for the manslaughter of Jason Swift, 14, was not in Bristol.

No decision on his long-term residence had yet been made, he added.

Ray Sefta, a local councillor, told the meeting: "I hope Sydney Cooke will hear what we have said and decide that this is not the area for him to move to."

The hostel is just five minutes walk from two primary schools and a nursery.

هنا من الأجر



Towards the paperless office

Sir Colin Marshall is a very busy man these days. In recent weeks the Government has repeatedly drafted Sir Colin, chairman of British Airways and president of the CBI, to serve on some of its most thrilling new initiatives. For example, Sir Colin has joined with Peter Mandelson and Stella McCartney to serve on the "Committee of Cool" Panel 2000 which is charged with finding ways to project Tony Blair's "new" Britain overseas. Sir Colin was also appointed - this time by Gordon Brown - to head yet another government taskforce, this one charged with studying a possible energy tax on industry. No doubt Sir Colin's diary is crisscrossed with board meetings, committee sessions and taskforce conferences and leaves little time for anything else, including reading. Could that be why he has told staff at his taskforce investigating the complex issues of energy taxation that all reports and papers must be limited in length - not to exceed two A4 sides of paper?

No room at the embassy

Last week The Box revealed that our highly social Washington embassy refuses to invite anyone from the Labour Party's US branch to its parties and receptions. Now Pandora has learned that the embassy's snooty attitude includes a policy whereby only British ministers of Cabinet rank may stay overnight in one of the embassy guest rooms. Everyone else, including ministers of state, must make do with a hotel room downtown.

New York's red light zone

Magazine icons are being shattered on a regular basis in New York these days. First, The Box reported *Vanity Fair's* embarrassing episode in which a *VF* journalist gave comedian Jerry Seinfeld (pictured) a pre-publication look at his own cover profile. Now comes word that the beloved hero of the pre-Tina Brown *New Yorker* crowd, the late editor William Shawn, whose journalistic integrity and personal probity were always beyond reproach, had a 40-year adulterous affair with one of his writers. This is revealed by Lillian Ross, the writer in question, in a forthcoming memoir. Yesterday, the *New York Post* quoted an anonymous *New Yorker* writer as saying the magazine, "had always been a hotbed of wife-swapping. It was a den of goddamn iniquity... people were leaping in and out of bed with each other... there was so much inter-office romance going on, it makes one wonder how they got a magazine out every week."

Plugging the 18th hole

Pandora met a friend over the weekend who was still, many days later, shaking his head over this year's BBC coverage of the Masters golf tournament. Commentators Peter Alliss and Alex Hay lavished praise on the traditions and lack of commercialism at the famous Augusta, Georgia golf course. Its beautiful fairways separated by tall mature pines inspired both men repeatedly to compare it on-air to that golfing nirvana known as... Woburn Golf & Country Club in Milton Keynes? Hardly the British equivalent of Augusta, you might think, but not all that surprising Pandora supposes. Not when you know that Woburn's new course is being designed by Peter Alliss and that the club's managing director is Alex Hay.

Fayed goes palace-hopping

Some weeks ago The Box broached the subject of Mohamed Al Fayed's possible departure from London should he fail to receive British citizenship. This prospect seems increasingly likely. Last week newspapers on both sides of the Atlantic wrote about the renovations begun by Mr Fayed on his New York residence. The Harrods owner apparently has paid \$100,000 to buy a corridor which connects his two tower apartments in the Hotel Pierre with their sweeping views of Central Park. Now Pandora has heard a rumour that al-Fayed is considering the sale of his residence at 55 Park Lane. The asking price is said to be well over £200m.

Krishna's virtual reality

Wonder why you haven't seen that conga-line of shaven heads in saffron robes chanting "Harry Harry..." on Oxford Street recently? Because they're being made obsolete. It seems even the International Society for Krishna Consciousness has gone digital. In several months' time, an exhibition will open in Delhi in which chanting robots will be introduced. These are an advance on the robots already on display in Los Angeles and Bangalore.

Pandora

DAILY POEM

From the "Rubaiyat"

by Omar Khayyam (Persian, c.1100), translated by Edward Fitzgerald

Think, in this battered Caravanserai
Whose Portals are alternate Night and Day,
How Sultan after Sultan with his Pomp
Abode his destined Hour, and went his way.

They say the Lion and the Lizard keep
The Courts where Janskyd glared and drank deep;
And Bahram, that great Hunter - the wild Ass
Stamps o'er his Head, but cannot break his Sleep.

I sometimes think that never blows so red
The Rose as where some buried Caesar bled;
That every Hyacinth the Garden wears
Drops in her Lap from some once lovely Head.

And this springing Herb whose tender Green
Fledges the River-Lip on which we lean -
Ah, lean upon it lightly! for who knows
From what once lovely Lip it springs unseen!

This week's Daily Poems select a few of the great translations into English in the 1300-page compendium *World Poetry: an anthology of verse from antiquity to our time*. The book is edited by Katharine Washburn, John S Major and Clifton Fadiman (W W Norton, £25), and published on Thursday to coincide with World Book Day.

Britain warned of nappy mountain

By Linus Gregoriadis

NAPPY disposal is costing the taxpayer £40m a year and is responsible for a growing proportion of landfill waste, campaigners claimed yesterday.

The Women's Environmental Network (WEN) and the Real Nappy Association are urging parents to forgo the convenience of throwaway nappies in favour of the environmental and financial benefits of reusables.

Speaking at the start of Real Nappy Week yesterday, Ann Link, WEN's waste prevention co-ordinator, said: "Nappy waste is harmful, unnecessary and expensive. Yet there are simple, cost-effective steps we can take now to put an end to it. In Australia, for example, real nappies are just the norm. And in some parts of Canada, over 70 per cent of parents choose real nappies."

"We aim for at least 50 per cent of parents to be using real nappies within the next five years which will leave the world a much better place for their babies to grow up in."

It costs £40m a year to dispose of an estimated 1 million tonnes of nappy waste, of which 75 per cent is urine and faeces, according to WEN figures.



Sitting pretty: Before disposables, towelling nappies were universal
Photograph: Fred Morley/Hulton Getty

Most nappy wastage is taken to landfill sites where nappies can take an estimated 500 years to break down and add to the build-up of methane gas, environmentalists say.

Advocates of reusables - who hope drastically to reduce the market share

of disposables from an estimated 85 per cent - say real nappies can represent a £500 saving per baby.

Reusables can be washed hygienically at 60C and are less likely to cause skin problems like eczema, while innovations in nappy design mean that

they no longer necessarily require pins or folding, the groups claim.

The National Association of Nappy Services says there are now about 20 nappy laundries in the UK. Guy Schanschieff, a spokesman for the association, said: "If you don't think

where the disposable nappy has come from, how it has been made, what it might be doing to the baby or where it goes once you have put it in the bin, then it is a great product. But most parents in the 1990s are concerned by one or all of those things."

"Once councils have removed paper and glass and plastic from the equation they find that nappies account for 15 per cent of household waste..."

"Disposable nappies aren't just going to disappear. Companies have phenomenal marketing budgets. There is always some new advert on television about the latest disposable nappy."

The Waste Minimisation Bill, initiated by WEN and designed to help local authorities reduce their wastage, is awaiting its Third Reading in the House of Commons.

Ann Link said: "Every year we produce enough rubbish to cover a large city waist-deep but local authorities complain they cannot prevent waste. Something can now be done to stop the rot."

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E.coli inquiry told of deadly meat sandwich

A WOMAN told yesterday how she found her elderly mother dead on the floor, a victim of the world's worst recorded outbreak of E.coli O157 food poisoning.

The evidence was given as the inquiry into the outbreak, which claimed 20 lives, opened yesterday in Motherwell.

Linda Blair, 45, of Bonnybridge, Stirlingshire, found her mother, Annie Criggie, dead on 26 November 1996. She gave her evidence in the form of a written affidavit, as she was unable to attend the inquiry on medical grounds.

The affidavit said that Mrs Criggie, 70, had told her daughter two days beforehand that she was suffering from diarrhoea and vomiting, and that the illness had begun four days previously on 22 November 1996.

"By the morning of Tues-

day, 26 November 1996, her mother appeared very unwell and in particular her speech was slurred, she was pale and she was unable to concentrate," the affidavit said.

Mrs Criggie's doctor was called and said that she should remain at home and that, while she was not dehydrated, samples would be taken for testing.

Mrs Blair's affidavit continued: "Her mother slept for most of that day and the defendant visited her on separate occasions to check on her well-being."

"At approximately 7pm on 26 November 1996, she went to her mother's flat and discovered her mother lying on the floor without signs of life."

"An ambulance was summoned immediately and it was confirmed that her mother was dead," Mrs Blair was

later told that her mother had been suffering from an E.coli O157 infection the inquiry heard.

The elderly woman was in the habit of eating a cold meat sandwich every day and after her death packets of cold cooked meat bought from a Scotmid store in Bonnybridge were found in her fridge.

The inquiry, which resumes today, is expected to last up to three months.

A total of 20 elderly people were widely reported to have died in the outbreak in which John Barr's butcher's shop in Wishaw was implicated.

But 21 names appear on the formal petition on which the fatal accident inquiry is based.

Officials told reporters it was for Sheriff Principal Graham Cox, conducting the inquiry, to decide what deaths



Sinking hopes: Britain's largest lido, Knap Pool in Cold Knap, South Glamorgan, faces an uncertain future after failing to win listed status. The pool now has little chance of getting Lottery Heritage funding. Photograph: Rob Stratton

One in six bodies will miss the millennium bug deadline

By Charles Arthur
Science and Technology Editor

ONE IN six United Kingdom organisations are set to miss the deadline for converting their computer systems to deal with the "millennium bug" after December 1999, according to a new survey.

The problems will be greatest in public-sector organisations, particularly hospitals, because they have put comparatively little effort into solving the problems of programs now running in computers and microprocessors which control vital systems such as air conditioning.

"It might not matter much if the air conditioning doesn't work in an office, but if it puts your operating theatre out of action, that's important," said John Cotterell, director of Year 2000 Services at consulting company Cap Gemini UK, which carried out the survey.

The survey last month among 1,200 organisations in Europe and the United States, found that larger companies were the least ready. It means that millennium bug problems could affect companies responsible for 38 per cent of UK gross domestic product (GDP).

"That does not mean that 38 per cent of GDP will be lost - we don't know how critical non-compliance will be to the functioning of those organisations. It just means that 38 per cent of UK GDP will be affected in some way," Mr Cotterell said.

The millennium bug arises because programs that store the year as a two-digit figure cannot distinguish between the 20th and 21st centuries. This could cause the program to crash or falsely report an error in some automatic systems, that could make the machine switch itself off. Such programs

have to be identified and either rewritten or replaced.

Of five sectors surveyed - finance, utilities, public-funded, manufacturing, and retail/distribution - the best prepared were in the banking and finance industry, where most had completed planning and were implementing changes. But only 30 per cent of utilities had reached that stage, while just 16 per cent of public-sector organisations had moved beyond planning. The problem is acute in hospitals.

Separately, a survey by the Scottish-based magazine *Insider Technology* has found that three-quarters of National Health Service trusts in Scotland say they cannot complete millennium bug fixes on their current budgets, and 90 per cent feel that government spending cuts are hampering their efforts.

"I don't want to be alarmist, but the timebomb is ticking away. There really are serious issues for patients," Donald McNeill, secretary of the Institute of Health Service Management in Scotland told the magazine. Health trusts are understood to be submitting revised budgets to the Government to include the cost of preparing for the year 2000.

But the problem is more widespread. For the whole of Europe and the US, one in seven organisations are set to miss the deadline on average. The highest rate of non-compliance is in Germany, Finland, the Netherlands and Belgium.

Helicopter crash leaves four dead

THE BODIES of four people were found in the wreckage of a helicopter after it crashed into woodland, police said yesterday. They were discovered near Gurney, Leicestershire, after a member of the public spotted the wrecked aircraft.

Police began searching for the aircraft at 10pm last night when a member of the public heard a helicopter with engine trouble and the sound of a crash over Saddington, near Market Harborough.

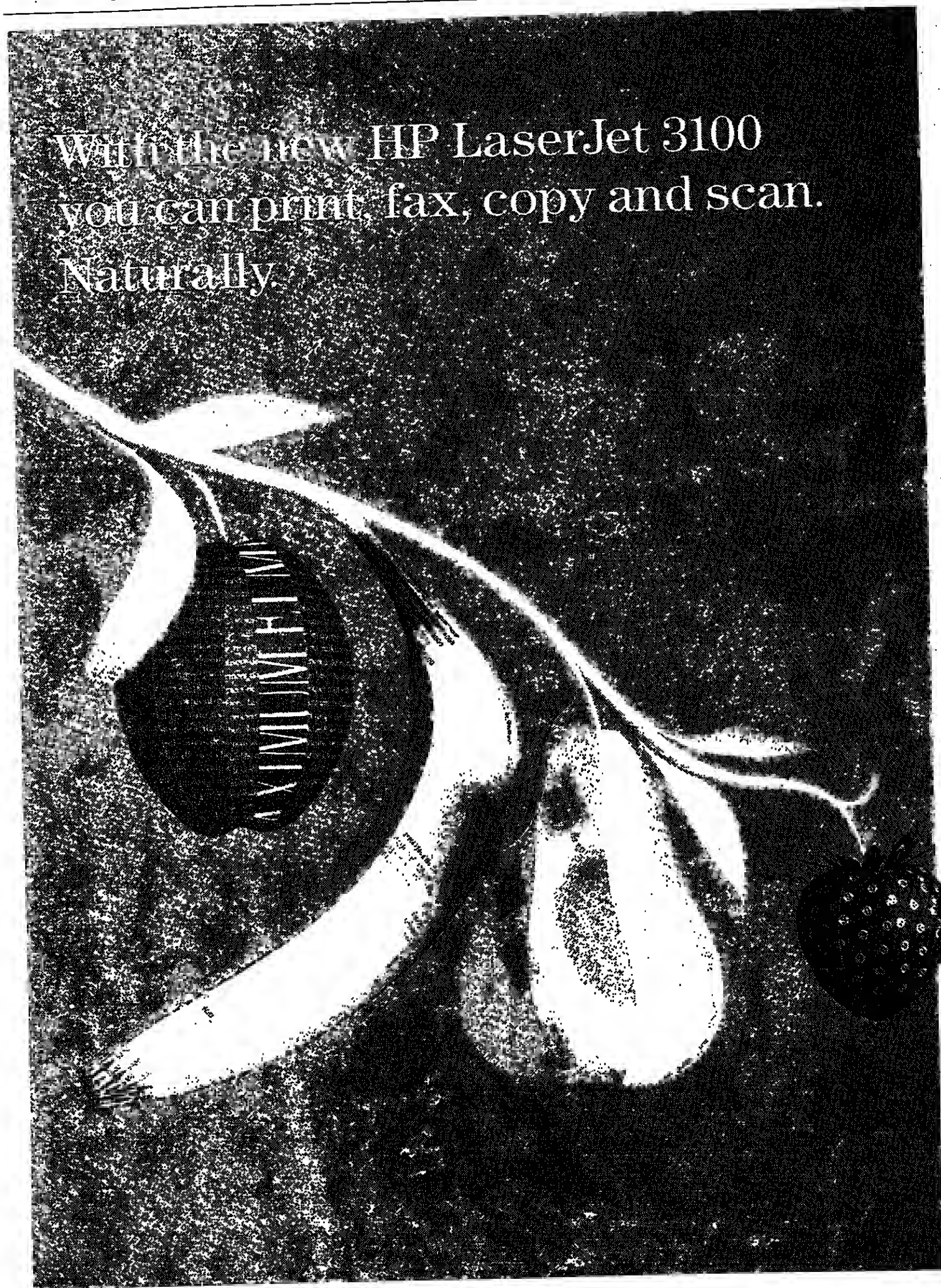
It is not known whether the helicopter burst into flames before or after the crash or what caused it to go into the woods on the Leicestershire-Northamptonshire border. Police believe all four people on board were local but they have not been identified and it is not known if they are male or female. "This is horrendous and it is a terrible tragedy. Our

hearts go out to the families of the people in there," said Chief Inspector Chris Gamham.

Police officers on foot and members of the Derbyshire mountain rescue service conducted a "structured" search of the area in the early hours and were joined by a police helicopter after poor weather improved. The scene has been cordoned off until crash investigators arrive.

A spokesman said: "Inquiries are being made as to the identities of the four dead people, but it is believed they were the only occupants of the four-seater helicopter. Members of the Air Accident Investigation Branch are expected at the scene later today to begin an investigation into the cause of the accident." The Civil Aviation Authority said the helicopter was a Robinson R44 on a private flight when it crashed.

Lawrence
inquiry
fair
police



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Package deal: Shareholders will be entitled to discounts on Thomson holidays

Photograph: Tom Pilton

Small investors seek place in the sun with holiday firm flotation

By Andrew Yates

THOMSON Travel Group, the UK's biggest tour operator, yesterday launched the largest stock-market flotation of the year so far - which will give hundreds of thousands of customers the chance to receive 10 per cent discounts on their holidays for the rest of their lives.

The sale of Thomson, which sends millions of Britons to the sun every year, has created the sort of stampede for shares from the general public normally reserved for Government privatisations.

More than 350,000 people have already registered an interest in buying shares in Thomson, making it one of the most popular share flotations of recent years.

Thomson revealed yesterday that strong demand from the

public has dramatically increased the stock-market value of the group. Shares will be priced at between 140p and 170p, valuing it at £1.4bn-£1.7bn, up to £400m more than the City originally expected.

Customers applying for £500 worth of shares stand to save hundreds of pounds a year on holidays by joining "The Founders' Club". They will then be entitled to claim 10 per cent off the brochure price of all Thomson holidays, including those taken with its Holiday Cottages operation. Two adults and a child booking an average Thomson holiday stand to save £112. However, potential savings are unlimited.

Founders' Club members can receive the discount on every holiday they book and can take as many breaks as they like each year as long as they hold on to the minimum amount of

shares. Members can also book a holiday for any number of friends and work colleagues as long as they also join the travelling party.

The overwhelming response to the share issue means that the amount of money needed to be invested to qualify for membership of the Founders' Club could be scaled back. That means investors could have to stump up far less than £500 to be entitled to receive discounted holidays. The 10 per cent of the share issue currently allocated to the public could also be increased.

The Thomson giveaway means the group is likely to forgo tens of millions of pounds a year in revenues. However, Thomson claimed yesterday that the scheme would be largely self-financing. It would be able to cut costs sharply as customers would book holidays

over the phone rather than go through travel agents which charge commissions.

The public have until noon on 7 May to return application forms for shares. The final flotation price will be set on 11 May and the shares will start trading a week later.

Thomson's 14,000 employees can also join in the share bonanza. They will be able to apply for 5 per cent of the shares offered in the flotation.

Each member of staff will also receive share options worth 10 per cent of their current salary. That will be worth anything from £800 for a sales assistant at its Lunn Poly travel agency chain to £8,000 for a senior captain at Britannia, the group's airline.

However, the employee offer disappointed trade unions who were seeking 10 per cent of Thomson.

Lawrence inquiry 'unfair to police'

POLICE officers called to give evidence at an inquiry into the murder of teenager Stephen Lawrence are being treated unfairly, Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Paul Condon said yesterday.

Sir Paul said through Jeremy Gompertz, his counsel at the inquiry, that officers had been heavily criticised and there was a danger of relations between police and the black community being put at risk.

A number of police officers have given evidence during the inquiry into the racially-motivated stabbing of Stephen, an 18-year-old schoolboy, who was killed in Eltham, south London in April 1993.

Some have been accused by Michael Mansfield, QC, for the Lawrence family, of not telling the truth and of insensitive treatment of the family.

As the inquiry resumed yesterday at the Elephant and Castle, south London, Mr Gompertz said: "The Commissioner appreciates the need for thorough and fearless investigation, which may well include criticism of police officers, but he is concerned that the confrontational nature of cross examination of some of the police officers has not assisted the search for truth.

"Such cross examination may be appropriate to adversarial procedures, but not to an inquisitorial hearing, where it may lead to witnesses failing to do themselves justice by adopting an unduly defensive attitude.

"This is unhelpful to the inquiry and may be unfair to the witness. More seriously, the Commissioner is concerned about the damage which is being done to the relationship between the police and the black community.

"If police witnesses are constantly pilloried by a barrage of confrontational cross examination, the attempts by the Metropolitan Police to rebuild that relationship which was seriously harmed by the aftermath of Stephen's murder, could be set back significantly."

Mr Gompertz said the Commissioner was also concerned that statements to the inquiry by Stephen's parents Doreen and Neville, and by chief murder witness Duwayne Brooks, had not been completed.



Condon: Cross examination too adversarial

Chairman of the inquiry, Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, said he hoped it would proceed "in a calm and dignified way".

He said: "We do not wish to have antagonistic cross examination as a lead. I must leave it to parties to take their instructions from their clients. It would be better if moderation was exercised during cross examination in both length and content."

He added: "All witnesses should be treated with sensitivity and compassion."

No one has been convicted of Stephen Lawrence's murder. The hearing continues today.

Boy aged 15 hanged himself in cell

A BOY aged 15 hanged himself in police custody after being arrested as a burglary suspect, an inquest was told yesterday.

David Green, of Erskine Road, Hartlepool, Cleveland, was found unconscious in his cell on Easter Monday last year, and died in hospital two days later. He had been detained on suspicion of burglary and possession of a controlled substance.

Andrew Jenkins of Hamilton Road, Hartlepool, told the inquest that he found David in his house on 30 March 1997. When he apprehended him, he said the boy became very agitated and began crying. Mr Jenkins' wife, Linda, said that

as David was led away he lunged at a door frame, hitting his head twice while shouting he was going to kill himself. However, when she drew this to police attention, an officer replied: "No, he won't."

Chief Supt John Burke, of Hartlepool police, agreed with counsel for the Green family that David's comments should have been passed on.

The case is controversial because juveniles are not supposed to be held in police cells except as a temporary measure, and a spokesman for the Inquest group, speaking outside the hearing, said the case raised "very serious questions".

The inquest continues today.

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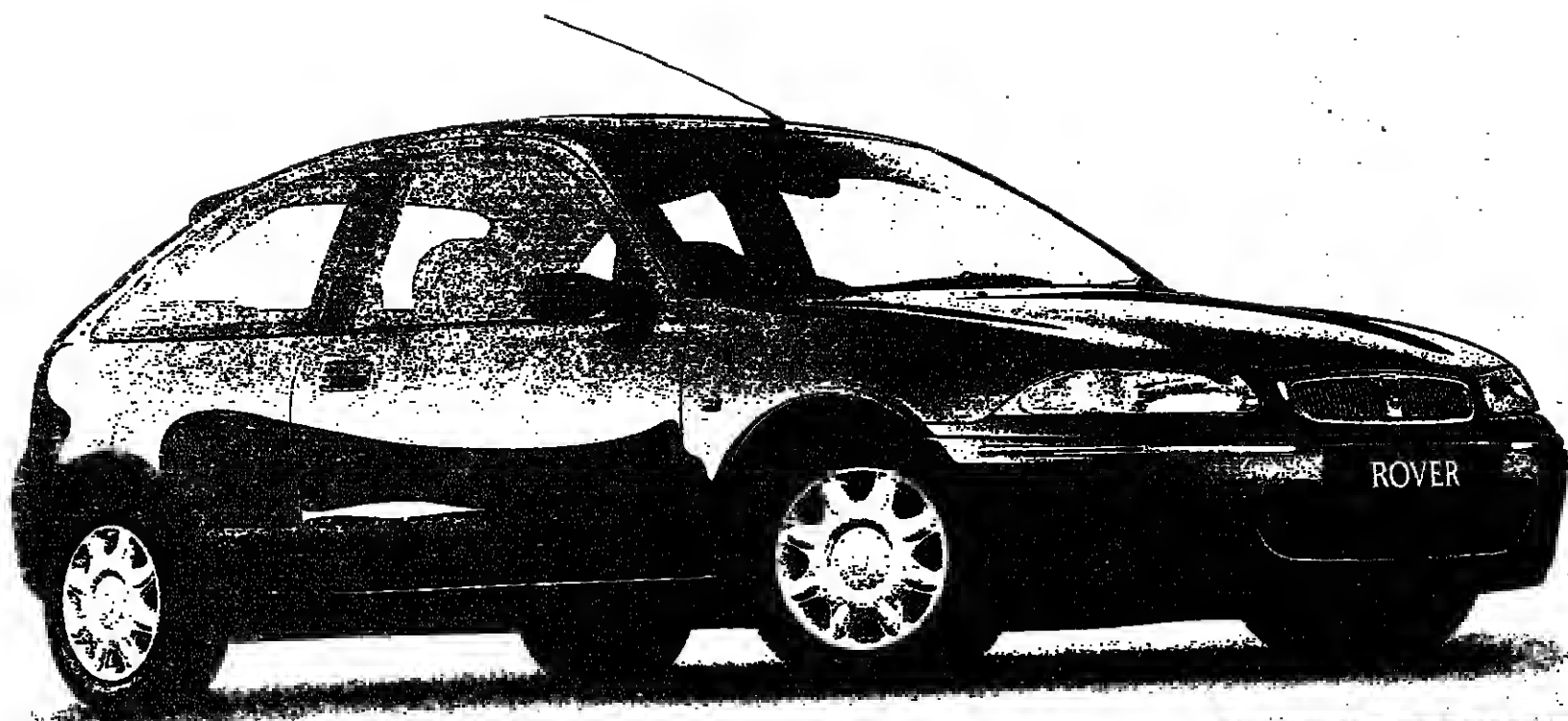
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Dobson shrugs off nurses' pay protest

By Jeremy Laurence
Health Editor

FRANK DOBSON apologised yesterday to nurses for cutting their pay but refused to rule out the possibility that he might do it again.

The Health Secretary was heckled by nurses angry at the staging of their pay award, which has cost them at least £100 each, as he addressed the Royal College of Nursing's annual congress in Bournemouth.

Adopting the confessional mode that is becoming his signature, Mr Dobson apologised for the rise in

appliance. Earlier, Betty Kershaw, president of the college, accused Mr Dobson of adding to the nurse-recruitment crisis by failing to protect nurses' pay.

Staging the pay award slashed its value below inflation and made nurses feel expendable.

"You made it clear to us that things were going to be tough. But it can't happen again next year. If you stage the pay award again, then I won't blame the nurses who will leave the NHS in ever greater numbers for British Airways and Marks & Spencer. Forcing nurses to vote with their feet and leave the profession is a tragedy."

Mrs Kershaw described the situation of Linda Bishop, 49, a district nurse in Cardiff with two diplomas, a masters degree and 16 years' experience. As an adviser on continence care to her NHS trust she works with housebound, chronically ill patients and earns just over £16,000 a year. Her eldest daughter is an art teacher with less than three years' experience who is earning £18,500 a year and her youngest daughter is a newly-qualified police officer earning £17,000 a year.

"Nurses love their jobs. They don't want to go but there's only so much anyone can take," Mrs Kershaw said.

But Mr Dobson refused to pick up the gauntlet. Questioned by reporters later, he said: "I would hope in the long run to get away from staging pay increases, but I can't make a guarantee about that."

Christine Hancock, secretary of the RCN, said the Government had saved £84m in the current year by staging the pay award. "Mr Dobson has been very successful in gaining extra money for the NHS. I don't see the need for staging. It felt like a slap in the face. Nurses were hurt and I have seen some in tears. They are determined to have their pay award staged fairly and will be very angry if it is staged again." Recent figures showing the pay of NHS chief executives rising at twice the rate of other NHS staff have fanned the flames of nurses' growing disillusionment with the Government.

The only crumbs offered by Mr Dobson yesterday were an extra £5m for student bursaries - worth an extra £100 on the average grant of £5,000 a year - and an extra £4m to run courses for former nurses who want to return to the NHS.



Dobson: Said he might even cut NHS workers' pay again

NHS waiting-lists last month - he said he was "genuinely sorry" that economic circumstances had forced him to delay payment of the full rise. Nurses will receive 2 per cent this month and a further 1.5 per cent next December, reducing the overall value of the 3.5 per cent pay award as recommended by the nurses' review body to 2.7 per cent, a cut of more than £100 on an annual salary of £10,000. Mr Dobson told reporters later: "I accept my responsibility as a member of Cabinet for staging the award. I also apologise for it. I am not frightened to apologise. I know how upset some people are and how poor some people are."

He told the congress that ending the economic cycle of boom and bust and getting the public finances on a sound footing had to take priority. The 2,000 delegates, who last year greeted him with a standing ovation, this year displayed disappointment and disaffection.

A balloon carrying the legend "Frank, nurses are worth more" presented to him by a nurse at the end of his speech triggered cheering and



World at his fingertips: Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott at the opening of British Airways' new terminal at Manchester Airport yesterday. Photographer: Phil Noble

Blair gathering ideas for his philosophy of 'the third way'

By Fran Abrams
Political Correspondent

AFTER making a start on the practicalities of government, new Labour is turning to deeper thoughts. Tony Blair has invited 30 academics and policy advisers to Downing Street next month to debate "The Third Way".

The term has been creeping into Mr Blair's speeches since he became Labour leader, but now he hopes to make it his own. The "stakeholding" tag which had been expected to define Labour seems to be falling from favour, and "The Third Way" between left and right is in the ascendency.

The seminar will cause some disquiet among old Labour types, who wonder what was wrong with socialism as a core philosophy. The favoured few who have been invited, though, are revelling in the chance to inject their own ideas into "Blairism".

Mr Blair discussed the idea with his friend President Bill Clinton at a seminar during his recent trip to Washington, and policy advisers at Downing Street encouraged academics to set up an Internet discussion on it.

Organised by Nexus, a network of academics which debates philosophy and politics mainly through the web, the argument was followed closely by advisers to Mr Blair.

A summary paper has been prepared as a precursor to the seminar, which will take place on 7 May and will be attended by the Prime Minister and his policy advisers as well

as leading academics and the heads of think-tanks.

A spokesman for Mr Blair said the meeting would not so much decide what new Labour was about as allow the Prime Minister to explain his own "Third Way".

"He has explained before that it is taking the values of the left and making sure they are modernised for today's world. I think there's a feeling that there is support for that among academics," he said.

David Halpern, director of Nexus and a member of the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences at Cam-

bridge University, said the Internet discussion had been extremely lively, though Mr Blair's policy advisers took a back seat.

"There's a surprisingly sparky debate," he said. "Some people clearly are wary that this is divisive; those used to old-left thinking. That clearly raises some sensitivities."

Another participant in the debate will be Michael Jacobs, general secretary of the Fabian Society, who said that it was time to find a philosophy that reflected a changed world. The Third Way need not necessarily be a middle way, just different.

"I also think it's a remarkable admission that the direction of the Government is still open to debate - but a welcome one," he said.

The idea of a "Third Way" is not new to Mr Blair, though. As long ago as 1995 he suggested that Labour's health policy would offer "a sensible third way for the future".

Certainly, the term should be flexible enough to cover all eventualities. Over the past 700 years it has been used to describe everything from Christian doctrine to fascism. It has even, on rare occasions, been used to describe socialism.

PM revives centuries of discussion

13th century: Saint Thomas Aquinas published his Third Way philosophy. "A thing that need not be, once was not, and if everything need not be, once upon a time there was nothing," he wrote.

19th century: Early fascists called for a "Third Way" between combining social order and national loyalty.

1930s: Oswald Mosley, founder of the British Union of Fascists, used the term to describe his position "in the centre of politics".

1950s: Non-aligned socialist leaders such as President Gamal Nasser in Egypt and Tito in Yugoslavia described their refusal to take sides in the Cold War as a "Third Way".



1990s: Amihai Etzioni, founder of Communitarianism, describes his philosophy as a "Third Way". Western politics has become obsessed with rights and has forgotten responsibilities, he says. People must reinvent a sense of mutual responsibility by reviving the family, schools, neighbourhoods and communities.

1995: Israeli Labour MPs founded a "Third Way" movement to oppose withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

1995: Tony Blair began to use the term to describe new Labour's philosophy.

Bishops' motoring bill 'nearly £600,000'

CHURCH of England Bishops spend almost £600,000 a year on cars and chauffeurs, MPs were told yesterday, writes Fran Abrams.

Stuart Bell, answering questions in Parliament on behalf of the Church Commissioners, said 31 out of the 44 diocesan bishops in England chose to have drivers. Seven more claimed mileage to drive their own cars. The cost of the chauffeurs was £317,000. In addition, it cost £279,000 to provide and maintain bishops' cars. The cars had engine sizes ranging from 1.6 litres to 2.3 litres.

Norman Baker, the Liberal Democrat MP for Lewes, said that while churches were being closed and parishes forced to cut back, the money could be better spent.

"Money spent on chauffeurs and large-engined cars isn't regarded very sympathetically by those in parishes who see their churches closing. There is a shortage of money out there," he said.

Mr Bell, who is the Labour MP for Middlesbrough, said bishops had demanding jobs and an increasing workload.

"Use of a driver can give them some valuable extra time. Several drivers also work as gardeners or handymen or are part time," he said.

A spokesman for the Church Commissioners said some dioceses were extremely large and it was not a good use of a bishop's time to drive himself.

Tory defector MP set to join Labour

By Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

PETER Temple-Morris, the 60-year-old former Tory MP, said yesterday that he was thinking of "going for the full monty" by finally taking the Labour whip after sitting for several months as an Independent.

Taking the plunge to join Labour would increase Tony Blair's record Commons majority, but it would also reassure voters won over in the Labour landslide that the government was honouring its pledges.

"I have to decide whether I want to be an Independent for the rest of this Parliament or whether I go for the full monty and become a member of the Parliamentary Labour Party," he said. "It is no secret that I

am very partial to new Labour and to Tony Blair. As each month goes by, they go up in my estimation," said Mr Temple-Morris, MP for Leominster since 1974.

Mr Temple-Morris had the Conservative whip withdrawn by William Hague, the Tory leader, after the general election for admitting to holding private talks with Labour about a possible defection in protest at the alleged anti-Europeanism of the Tories.

Alan Howarth, MP for Newport East, defected to Labour before the election and became an employment minister. But Mr Temple-Morris could be more use to Mr Blair in the Commons if Labour seeks to win over more Tory defectors before the next election.

Murdoch links query

THE Prime Minister's links with Rupert Murdoch came under fire from Tory MPs yesterday over the appointment of one of Tony Blair's Downing Street officials to Mr Murdoch's BSkyB satellite company, writes Colin Brown.

Mr Allan confirmed he had accepted a £100,000-a-year post as the head of BSkyB corporate communications, sparking questions in the Commons over the alleged "revolving door" between the Government and the Murdoch empire and recent intervention by Tony Blair on Mr Murdoch's behalf with the Italian Prime Minister about a possible Murdoch takeover of

an Italian broadcasting group. Francis Maude, Tory spokesman on culture, challenged Chris Smith, Secretary of State, over whether Mr Blair knew his deputy press spokesman was negotiating to take on a job with BSkyB when Mr Blair intervened. "And was Mr Allan the conduit for Rupert Murdoch's request for help? Were Cabinet Office officials consulted about his subsequent appointment and did they know of any role Mr Allan played in the Prodi affair?" Mr Smith dismissed the questions and insisted the Government had been even-handed to all media organisations.

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Goddess of beauty comes down to earth

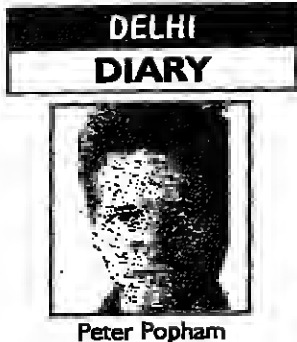
I recently found myself sharing the lift of one of Delhi's grander hotels with Shahnaz Husain, the woman who invented the notion of ayurvedic beauty treatments and turned them into a business with a range of 400 products worth somewhere between £7m (her estimate) and almost £100m (other people's) per year. Silent as a mummy, shaggy as a lion, large as a wigwam, the lady who has been called "India's sacred goddess of beauty" plummeted earthwards.

I felt embarrassed: some months ago I interviewed Mrs Husain for a profile but failed to get around to writing it. She had not forgotten: when I braved her somehow tragic silence, to re-introduce myself, she demanded to know when the article was going to appear.

Problem is, if I write it now it is going to be a different sort of piece. When you go to see Shahnaz in the Bower of Bliss that serves as a her office - miniature plastic tangerine trees, chairs covered with fake tiger skin, china objects, photographs of herself - you receive a large glossy folder entitled What The World Press Has To Say About ... Shahnaz Husain.

"India's sacred goddess of beauty", "the jet age beauty tycoon", "guru of gorgeousness", "god's gift to the world" - these are the terms in which she is accustomed to being described. But something is going wrong.

Many of her products are described as "ayurvedic medicine", thereby attracting a 10 per cent sales tax; but some local press reports have argued that they should actually be called cosmetics, which are taxed at 40



Peter Popham

per cent. If tax officials agree Mrs Husain may be about to receive a very nasty bill.

The world is becoming a darker place for the woman whom Barbara Cartland once called "fabulous and fascinating". Let me attest that all the products of hers which my household has tried have been excellent value (though perhaps not strictly medicinal).

During the recent election campaign I wrote a lot about Sonia Gandhi, the Italian-born widow who is now president of the Congress party. But I hardly mentioned the other Gandhi widow in Indian politics, Sonia's sister-in-law, Maneka. Yet Maneka, an independent MP who has just been made minister of welfare in the new government, is almost equally controversial.

Had her husband, Sanjay Gandhi, not died in a plane crash in 1980, Maneka would probably have been the mistress of 7 Race Course Road, the prime minister's residence, for much of the past two decades. Instead, there was widowhood and a famous rupture from mother-in-law Indira. After that, Maneka



Shahnaz Husain: Ayurvedic treatments said to be worth £100m

Photograph: UPP

carved a name for herself as India's most vigorous animal rights campaigner. Her attempt to liberate dancing bears and monkeys and stop cruel experiments involving animals have brought her notoriety in a country where most people seem to find her passions bafflingly exotic.

Whatever Indians may think of her, Maneka has my gratitude: earlier this month we drove to her pet sanctuary in

the suburbs; thanks to her, for the modest sum of 180 rupees (£1.50), we are now the proud owners of a small but lively tabby cat called Tessa. Whether Maneka would approve of Tessa's new role in life - she is skittering round the skirting in pursuit of our resident mouse as I write - I am not so sure.

Yes, the mice are back. And the cockroaches that fly. And the tedious whirring of the ceiling fan. And the mosquitoes. And that special summery Delhi smell, a compound of dust, petrol, sweat and various types of excrement. For two months in spring we have enjoyed the sense that north India is a nice place. Now the mercury is rising, the smog is back and we grit our teeth. Gone are the canny foreigners - leaving the ill-informed ones, and the likes of us.

Massacres drive Kashmir Hindus from 'paradise'

By Peter Popham
in Delhi

LESS than two weeks after travel agents and journalists were flown to Kashmir to be lectured on the revival of the region's tourism, a massacre in the hills has reminded the world of the intractability of its problems.

Last Thursday night 26 Hindu men, women and children in two remote hamlets in Jammu, south of Kashmir proper, were rounded up and decapitated. The murders were seen as another attempt by Islamic militants to terrorise the region's Hindu minority into fleeing.

Lal Advani, Minister for Home Affairs, flew to the site of the massacre yesterday, and afterwards told reporters: "I have seen tragedies before, but this was blood-curdling and heart-curdling. No bullets were used: the victims were merely butchered."

This is the third massacre of Hindu civilians to have taken place in the state in 13 months. In January, on the eve of India's Republic Day, 23 were shot dead in the Wundhama area; in March of last year, seven were killed by the same means in the Badgam district.

The tactics seem to be working: a new report indicates that Hindus are moving out of the state in large numbers. According to a team from India's National Human Rights Commission, which visited the site of January's massacre, the number of Hindu families living in villages in the valley of Kashmir has shrunk to less than half the official figure.

Even though last week's killing took place in a remote area, it underlines the problems that confront the Kashmir state government in reviving the tourist industry, which is crucial to the local economy.

"Paradise beckons holiday-makers" read one hopeful headline in the Indian press following the Conference on Domestic Tourism, held in the capital, Srinagar, recently. But while Dal Lake and its valley are still resplendent, evidence of the conflict is everywhere. There are troops in all the hotels and delegates were restricted to a radius of two kilometres from the conference centre.

At the conference, Kashmir's Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah dangled an army of unlikely inducements before the delegates: multiplex cinemas, a casino, liquor stores. But gory murders remind the world that the only one of the foreign hostages taken in July 1995 whose body has so far been found, the Norwegian, Hans Christian Ostroe, was himself decapitated. The other four - two of them British - are still missing, presumed dead.

Mexico's Nobel poet dies

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Octavio Paz, Mexico's foremost literary figure and winner of a Nobel Prize for poetry and essays mapping the labyrinths of the mind, has died aged 84.

Paz was preoccupied by the contrast between Mexico's ancient Indian past and more recent Spanish heritage. He is best known for two early works: the book-length essay "The Labyrinth of Solitude" and the poem "Sun Stone". Paz won Spain's Miguel Cervantes Prize in 1982, the TS Eliot Award in Chicago in 1987, the Nobel Prize for literature in 1982.

Other was secretary to Emiliano Zapata, a peasant leader of Mexico's 1910-1920 revolution. When Zapata was murdered in 1919, the Paz family went into brief exile in Los Angeles. Later he went to law school in Mexico City. He married a young writer, Elena Garro, and continued to write poems.

Paz joined the Republican forces in the Spanish civil war. After the Second World War he worked in Mexico's diplomatic service, but in 1968, he resigned as ambassador to India when troops quashed student protests in Mexico City killing hundreds of people.



Paz: Mapped the labyrinths of the Mexican mind

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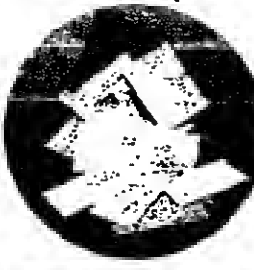
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Children die as sanctions crush Iraq

Patrick Cockburn in Baghdad sees the heart-rending price the innocent are paying for Saddam's defiance of the West

THE REASON his doctors expected eight-month-old Hussein Ali Majboul to die was that the oxygen bottle beside his bed was empty and there was no chance of getting a new one.

A week before, his mother Nada brought Hussein, brown eyes bright with fever, to the Ibn al-Khatib hospital for infectious diseases in the southern outskirts of Baghdad. Now he had almost ceased to breathe.

"He has meningitis," said Dr Deraid Obousy, director of the hospital, gently pressing the side of Hussein's neck. "He is already unconscious. It is in the hands of God. We don't have any more oxygen bottles in the hospital and we don't have any money to hire a truck to pick up a new one from the factory that refills them on the other side of Baghdad."

Sitting at their baby's bedside Nada and her husband Ali, a factory worker, explain that their family income is about 14,000 Iraqi dinars (£7) a month to support them and their parents.

Dr Obousy, 46, but looking older, is obviously depressed by the conditions around him. The reason he cannot send one of his hospital vehicles to pick up the oxygen bottle which might save Hussein Ali is that they have no wheels, or engines. They were long ago cannibalised to keep at least one going, and now stand rusting in the hospital forecourt, axles supported by rocks.

When we entered his office Dr Obousy was reading an old copy of the *British Medical Journal*, which had found its way to Baghdad despite sanctions. He said that in Britain, where he worked in hospitals for four years, "a place like this would definitely be closed. They would say it is rubbish. It is getting into the hot season and we have no mosquito netting for the windows, or air conditioning, or even enough sheets for the beds."

All this is confirmed by a tour of the wards. The smell of disinfectant does not quite mask the stench of the lavatories. The patients are eating a meagre

meal of rice and chick-pea soup.

Hidden away south of the capital, the Khair and Ibn-Zuhir TB hospital beside it deal with the infectious diseases which had become a rarity in Iraq before the embargo was imposed by the United Nations Security Council in 1990, after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Eight years later, measles, typhoid, meningitis, diphtheria and even polio are common.

The resurgence of these diseases has caused malnutrition, Dr Obousy said. "We now often find children with thickening of the wrist, which means rickets or calcium deficiency, things we used to know about only from test books."

In 1989-90, 36.5 out of 1,000 Iraqi babies died before they were one. Now it is 120 out of 1,000.

In Baghdad, Dr Nada al-Ward, a public health specialist at the World Health Organisation, confirms the medical consequences of semi-starvation: "In 1989-90 the number of babies in Iraq who died before they were 12 months old was 36.5 out of 1,000. Currently the figure has more than tripled to 120 out of 1,000."

The reason why three times as many babies are dying was explained by a survey conducted by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (Unicef) of children in south and central Iraq last October. It showed 25 per cent of children under five were not getting enough to eat.

The survey also shows how poverty and malnutrition have grown in Iraq since the end of the Gulf war in 1991. A sur-

vey carried out by Unicef then, when the embargo was already in place for a year, showed 9 per cent of children were malnourished.

As the physical condition of 22 million Iraqis deteriorates, they get more vulnerable to disease. In recent months Dr Obousy has been trying to cope with an epidemic of measles. He said: "It used to be quite rare. Now it is coming back as a child killer."

Dr al-Ward points out that malaria, which used to be endemic only around Mosul in northern Iraq is spreading south along the Euphrates, to Babil, Kerbala and Najaf provinces.

It is not only patients who are affected. A doctor at the al-Khatib said he did not earn much more than the £7 a month salary of Hussein Ali's father. He had to have a private clinic to keep going. "Even so," he added, "I have had to sell my TV set and a radio to survive."

The impoverishment of Iraq is the result of sanctions preventing Iraq selling its oil until 1996. Although exports were then allowed under the oil-for-food plan Iraqi families have been selling off their possessions year by year and now have nothing left to sell.

Even the import of artificial limbs - badly needed in Iraq because of the number of soldiers who stood on mines in the Iran-Iraq war - was disallowed until the Red Cross imported components and set up its own workshops to fit them to amputees.

In the al-Khatib hospital the semi-starved parents and their dying children are the obvious victims of the embargo. A diplomat in Baghdad said: "It affects the 21.5 million ordinary Iraqis, but not the 500,000 members of the elite."

On the day that eight-month-old Hussein Ali died of meningitis, the Iraqi government was watching a march-past of 140,000 volunteer soldiers - as if to confirm how little its hold on power has been weakened by eight years of sanctions.



Clare Short (left) with Emma Bonino, the EU Humanitarian Affairs Commissioner, at yesterday's aid conference in London

Photograph AP

Short gives backing to charities' work

By Kim Sengupta

TWO charities helping to organise the *Independent and Iraq Appeal* are expected to gain extra public funding as part of the Government's commitment to alleviate the suffering of Iraqi people. Care International and Medical Aid for Iraqi Children have been doing welfare work in Iraq and also administer funds raised by this newspaper for the treatment of children there who developed cancer after the Gulf war.

The *Independent* appeal stands at £88,000. Negotiations



are under way for the funds to be used to send medicine to Iraq to help 2,000 children with cancer. The prospect of more cash came from government sources as London hosted a seminar on aid to Iraq. The meeting at Lancaster House is bringing together experts from

European Union states, the European Commission, donor countries, the United Nations and charities.

The meeting was opened by the International Development Secretary, Clare Short, who, her officials said, was moved by reports of the plight of Iraqis in the *Independent*. She has already announced a £7m package for food, medicine and mine clearance in regions controlled by Baghdad in addition to £3m being spent in the north of the country.

Ms Short urged delegates to put aside the apportioning of blame: "We will not help the

Iraqi people by wringing our hands at the extent of the problem, nor pointing the finger of blame, whether at the Iraqi government, at the sanctions regime, or at different constituencies within the international community or at the UN. People throughout the world are very concerned about the suffering of the people of Iraq. We are here today to explore whether we can help."

Emma Bonino, EU Humanitarian Affairs Commissioner, suggested it might be time to reconsider the sanctions against President Saddam Hussein's government. "Maybe ... it's

time to rethink ... the ways and means of implementing sanctions as a tool of foreign relations." The Labour MP George Galloway, who recently flew an Iraqi girl, Mariam Hamza, to London for leukaemia treatment, said the conference was a belated recognition of international concern. "Those of us who have been saying it for nearly eight years now have been routinely denounced as Saddamist stooges."

Please send cheques, made out to The *Independent* Iraq Appeal, to PO Box 6870, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5BT

Bonn plan to vet budgets of Emu states

By Katherine Butler
in Brussels

EURO-ZONE governments would have to submit drafts of their tax and spending plans for the next three years to Brussels this autumn under a German proposal to start treating national budgets as a matter of "common concern".

The proposal, which will be debated by EU finance ministers at a meeting in Luxembourg today, will not only fuel anxiety in some countries about the German obsession with budgetary rigour, but also with the erosion of sovereignty implied by Euro membership. It opens the prospect of governments being ordered by Brussels to shelve plans for domestic spending on schools hospitals or job creation schemes if the extra spending involved posed a threat to the overall stability of the Euro.

This is Europe deciding what our budgets are. The room for manoeuvre on setting interest rates and exchange rates we accepted would go, but from now it seems the scope to manage our own budgets is also going to be sharply reduced," commented one official from a candidate country.

EU governments have already accepted a "stability pact" - a mechanism for policing and punishing reckless financial housekeeping inside the Euro-zone after 1 January 1999. But under the German plan, it would be enforced seven months ahead of schedule, and its terms in effect, tightened.

It would not be enough simply to meet the Maastricht economic criteria - as eleven countries are expected to do - to avoid incurring penalties. Already in the current year, any windfall tax revenues generated by economic growth would have to be saved rather than used for job creation schemes

or income tax giveaways. The plan which has been tabled by the Bonn finance minister Theo Waigel is aimed at reassuring the German public, deeply sceptical about giving up the German mark for membership of a currency club which includes debt-ridden Italy.

While expected to be deeply controversial in France, where tackling unemployment is the biggest political priority and among left wing parties in Italy, the plan represents the price exacted by Germany and The Netherlands for agreeing to admit Italy and Belgium where debt levels are over twice the Maastricht limit.

The EU monetary affairs commissioner, Yves Thibault de Silguy, who is backing the Bonn initiative, has drafted a declaration which will be put to EU heads of government when they meet on 1 May to formally select the countries to be included in the EMU first wave.

It asks all 15 leaders, even those not in the first wave, to sign up to the broad commitment to sound public finances and rigorous budgetary discipline. Euro-zone leaders will be asked more specifically to agree to use any additional leeway which might arise in the course of 1998 from better than expected growth, to repay debt.

Brussels officials played down the notion that the committee of member state experts and central bankers which will vet public finances would go through national budgets line by line. "Clearly that would be politically unacceptable. What we will be seeking to establish is the overall balance, to what extent expenditure is covered by income."

But they admitted that if any "exceptional item" in a country's draft budget posed difficulties then it would be raised with the country concerned.

Clinton urges Congress to save anti-smoking Bill

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON made a last-ditch plea to Congress in an attempt to prevent his anti-smoking crusade being hijacked by the big tobacco companies. Legislation that would increase the price of a packet of cigarettes by more than \$1 (62p) and curb advertising is marooned in Congress, where opponents and supporters of the tobacco industry are fighting in committee over its terms. Mr Clinton said Congress had "a historic opportunity to protect our children". Chances that any tobacco legislation would be passed by this Congress were reduced two weeks ago when five big tobacco companies suddenly withdrew from talks with Congress, saying the proposed deal was too expensive.

— Mary Dejeu, Washington

Abacha given poll go-ahead



GENERAL SANI ABACHA, who seized power in Nigeria in 1993 on promises to restore civilian rule, yesterday won a crucial vote allowing him to stand unopposed in "democratic" presidential elections in August. The Grassroots Democratic Movement was the fifth and the last of Nigeria's officially sanctioned parties to adopt the general as presidential candidate. Nigeria's main opposition group, the United Action for Democracy, asked Nigerians to boycott elections.

— Mary Braid

Hope for Somalis' captives

A SOMALI faction leader said eight Red Cross workers and two pilots held for six days would be released yesterday. Hussein Aidid told his spokesman to charter a plane to the Somali capital, Mogadishu, to pick up the captives, who were seized near Mogadishu airstrip on 15 April and include a naturalised American Somali, two Swiss, a Norwegian, a German, a Belgian, a French nurse and a Somali.

— AP, Nairobi

Tibetan protesters ailing

SIX TIBETANS were deemed too fragile to speak to visitors yesterday, the 42nd day of a hunger strike launched to prod the UN into taking up their dispute with China. Meanwhile, 50 Tibetan Buddhist nuns submitted a memorandum to the UN office in the Indian capital urging the Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, to appoint a Tibet human-rights investigator, resume debate on Tibet in the General Assembly and oversee a referendum on independence.

— AP, New Delhi

With this ring I thee divorce

DANISH Lutheran clergy are pondering a controversial plan to allow a divorce ceremony in church. "The death of love should also have its funeral," a minister, Erik Bock, said. He is among ministers in Denmark who want the church to establish a ritual in which splitting couples can ask for God's help to go each their way. However, Bishop Kjeld Holm, of Aarhus, Denmark's second-largest city, has said such ceremonies would be "grotesque."

— AP, Copenhagen

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Gucci's ex-wife breaks silence over his death

By name
in place

SINCE her arrest 15 months ago, Patrizia Reggiani has steadfastly refused to respond to charges of ordering the murder of her ex-husband Maurizio Gucci. This afternoon she will break her silence, but her version of events surrounding the brutal killing in 1995 of the last Gucci to head the luxury leather goods company of the same name may only add to the mystery.

The four other people accused of involvement in the killing - including a close friend of the former Mrs Gucci - have provided investigators with substantially corresponding stories. Mrs Reggiani is unlikely to back them up.

"Mrs Reggiani is shocked by what she considers gratuitous, unfair accusations by the other people 'charged'," said her lawyer Gaetano Pecorella yesterday. "She will be attempting to set the record straight."

The Gucci family is as famous for its vicious feuds as for its handbags and shoes. Yet when Maurizio was gunned down outside his Milan office on 27 March 1995, it was his complicated - and questionable - business affairs which grabbed investigators' attention.

For over a year, they sifted through his papers, questioned his contacts, sought clues in Switzerland where Gucci kept the bulk of his estimated 200bn lire in assets.



Maurizio Gucci: Gunned down outside his office.

Not until January 1997 did attention shift to the ex-wife of Gucci, who in 1993 had followed his estranged cousin's example, selling off his 50 per cent holding in the family company to the Saudi-owned investment for little short of \$200m.

According to the case which will be brought by the prosecution in Milan on 11 May, Gucci's former wife, encouraged by her friend and spiritual adviser, medium Giuseppina Aurriemma, paid a porter at a Milan hotel to find two killers to put an end to her former spouse. Behind the plan was Mrs Reggiani's fear that she and her two daughters from her relationship with Gucci would lose out financially from Maurizio's planned marriage to his companion, Paola Franchi.

When the hitmen accepted their share of the £600m that Mrs Reggiani had paid to have Gucci removed, they tried to up

the stakes. One of them confessed to blackmail plans to a fellow criminal who happened to be a police informer. Arrests soon followed, then gradually confessions too.

The last to give way was Ms Aurriemma, who two months ago admitted she had gone along with the plan to extort more funds from Mrs Reggiani.

This defection, Mrs Reggiani's lawyers said, prompted their client to break her silence.

"Mrs Reggiani does not feel responsible for her husband's death," said Mr Pecorella. "But she has no intention of trying to get herself off the hook by blaming other people. Others may do that, but it is not her way."



Patrizia Gucci (now Reggiani) with her daughters Allegra and Alessandra, at the funeral of Maurizio Gucci in 1995

Parents could be exiled for children's sins

By Imre Karacs
in Bonn

BAVARIA'S right-wing government is planning to deport foreigners whose children are caught shop-lifting or committing other crimes.

Herrmann Regensburger, Bavaria's interior minister, yesterday confirmed press reports that as part of a new "security offensive", the sins of foreign children are to be revisited on their elders. The new measures will be presented to the cabinet in Munich next month, and Bavaria will petition the federal parliament for a change of the law.

"The duty of parenthood must be taken seriously," Mr Regensburger recently proclaimed. Taking a leaf out of Tony Blair's copy book, Munich's hard man wants parents to foot part of their offspring's legal bill.

While civil rights activists expressed dismay about these proposals, no one had been prepared for the severity of sanctions against so-called "foreigners", many of whom are third-generation immigrants.

Mr Regensburger claims foreign youths are "clearly over-represented" in crime statistics. Figures released by the ministry purport to show that half the recorded youth offences in Munich in 1996 were committed by minors of foreign

origin. Although Mr Regensburger denies that he is seeking a repatriation programme, he insists on the right to deport repeated offenders "on an individual basis".

The perception that German crime is committed by foreigners is a recurring theme of the right-wing press and populist politicians of every hue. Even Gerhard Schröder, the chancellor candidate of the opposition Social Democrats, has in the past advocated the deportation of foreign-born offenders. Never before, though, has anyone suggested throwing out an entire family because of the crimes committed by a juvenile member.

Politicians reacted with outrage yesterday to the "crazy idea" - in the words of the Social Democrat deputy chairman, Otto Schily. Even the Free Democrats, allied to the Bavarian conservatives in the Bonn coalition, thought their partners had gone too far.

But Bavaria is facing elections to its own parliament this September, and the governing Christian Socialists are in danger of losing an absolute majority because of the advance of parties even further to the right. It is becoming increasingly apparent that the ruling party will conduct a chauvinistic law-and-order campaign: tough on foreigners and Europe.

Red Army Faction 'is to disband'

THE grey-haired urban guerrillas of the Red Army Faction who rampaged through Germany for nearly three decades quit the class struggle yesterday with a letter announcing their disbandment, writes Imre Karacs.

"The RAF emerged from a liberation action nearly 28 years ago on May 14, 1970. Today we are ending this project. The urban guerrilla group in the form of the RAF is now history," the group said in an eight-page statement sent to Reuters news agency.

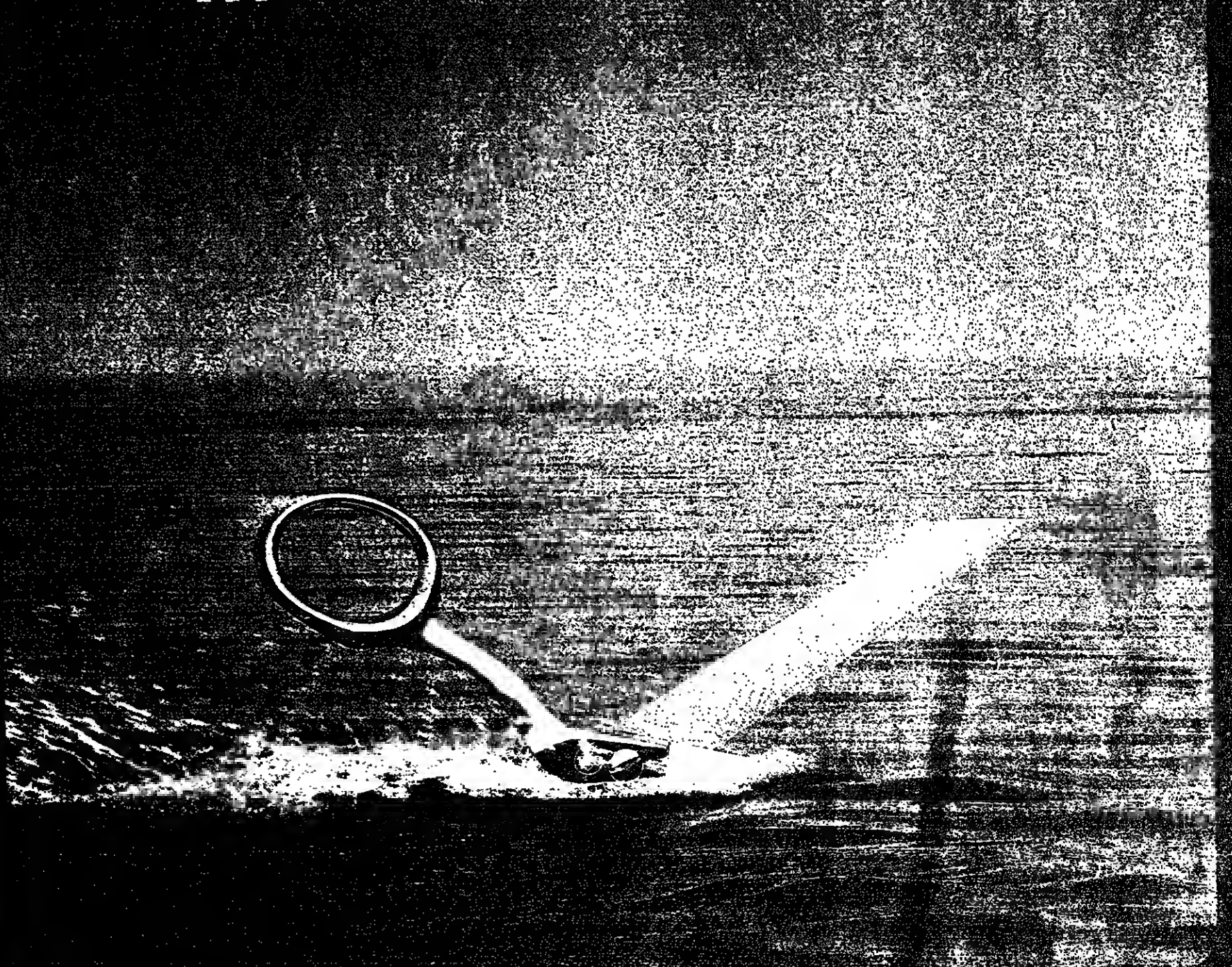
The letter bore the faction's trademark star and appeared genuine, but the German authorities said they needed more

time to verify its authenticity. Remnants of the group, successors to the Baader-Meinhof gang, had been living in semi-retirement for several years.

In their heyday, they and their Palestinian comrades-in-arms killed more than 30 people, but time has chipped away some of the old certainties, and the anonymous combatants are now willing to admit that they have made some mistakes.

"It was a strategic error not to build up a social-political organisation in addition to the illegal, armed one," the statement declared. "The RAF had thrown everything into a scales and suffered a heavy defeat."

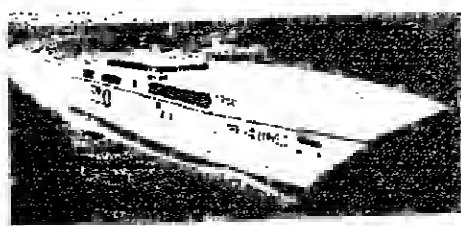
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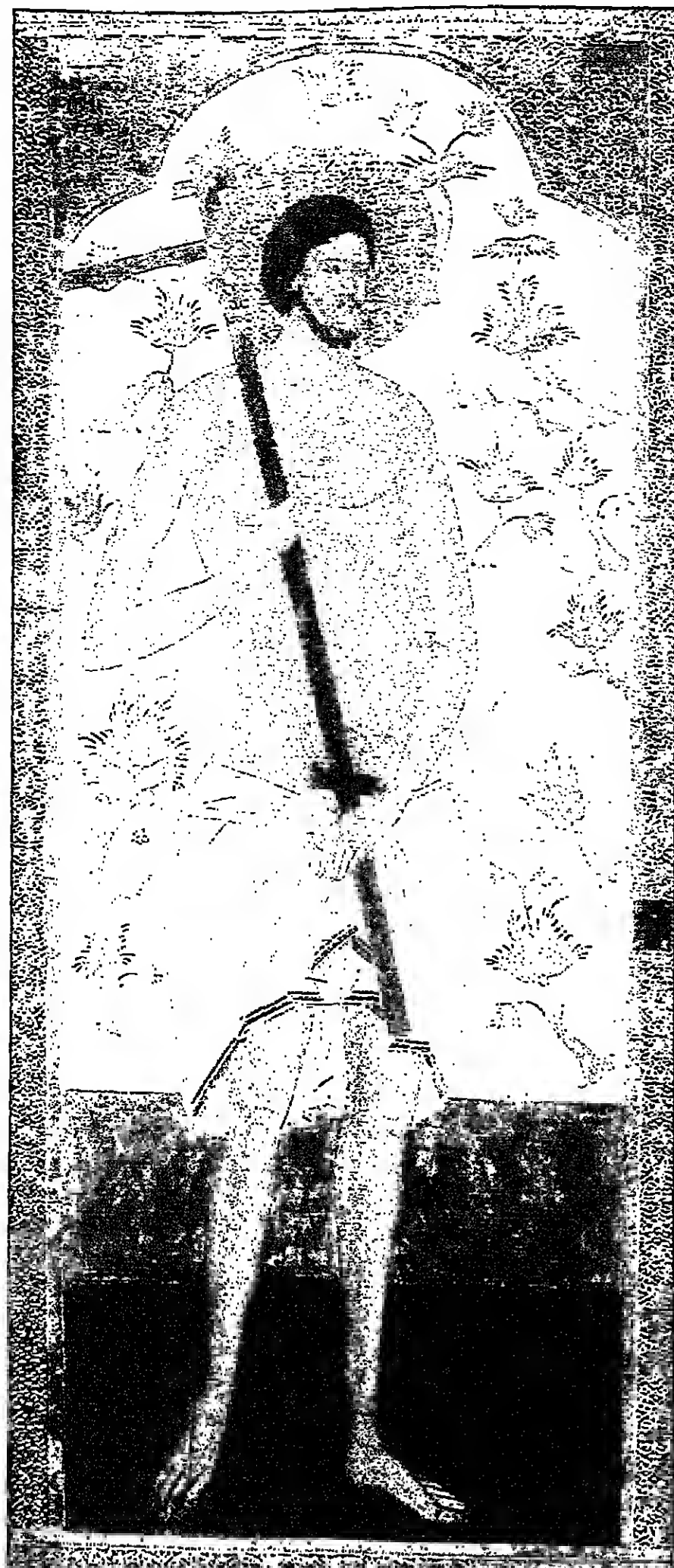
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The Righteous Thief, tempera on gesso and wood, one of the icons on show at the Royal Academy
State Museums of the Moscow Kremlin

Even icons need the breath of life

They're holy and they're beautiful, but Tom Lubbock found the Royal Academy's show lacking vitality

"SHE was an icon" was how many people expressed themselves last year on the death of you know who, as if the word really said everything. And while it became a laughable cliché within 24 hours, it surely did say something – though it's hard to say what precisely, or what precisely the connection might be with the sort of works, showing in The Art of Holy Russia: Icons from Moscow 1400-1600 at the RA. The OED is no help at all.

Anything can be an icon nowadays. Human beings, cartoon characters, cars, furniture, foods, all may qualify. Even works of art that definitely are not icons can be called icons in this new, elusive and elastic sense, for example the "Mona Lisa" or "The Scream". And perhaps this whole semantic flutter reflects some basic misunderstanding about what kind of thing an icon in the root sense of a devotional image painted on a bit of wood, actually is.

They can certainly be baffling. Go round the fifty pieces in the Sackler Galleries, and you'll likely see things that seem familiar, because they look a bit like early Italian art. There are motifs you could find in Giotto or Duccio, images that reflect the old, Byzantine common ground of all Christian art. But when you find yourself especially liking something then puzzles begin. The terms on which we tend to praise Western art – innovation, individuality – are terms icons tend to refuse.

Now the icon isn't a wholly static art. It develops a bit. But compared with the hectic transformations of, say, Flo-

rentine art between 1400-1600, what happened in Moscow isn't much. Nor is it wholly anonymous. It is has its big names, like Theophanes the Greek, Andrei Rublev and Dionysii (though it doesn't have any small names). But with an art so governed by traditional templates, it can be hard to see how the individual contributes.

Try a good mug's question: what makes Andrei Rublev so good then?

Well, there aren't any Rublevs here (too precious to shift, I suppose), and I really only picked his name because of the Tarkovsky film – but there is a close copy of one his most famous images, "The Trinity".

The first striking thing is how strange, in his case, the motif is: not a man with a beard holding a table in conversation, but three identical young men, with wings and halos, sitting round a table in conversation. It seems a far more beautiful imagining of the divine three-in-one than the usual Western version.

But that isn't Rublev's doing. The picture identifies the Trinity with the three angels who came to lunch with Abraham, and that's standard Eastern practice. What's especially beautiful, though, is how the body language of the central angel "negotiates" between the outer two: his torso, facing right, echoes the left-hand figure's, while his head, facing left, echoes the right-hand figure's. Thus, when you match up the combinations, he's alternately addressing and in accord with, both his companions – a stroke of genius, I think, a perfect pictorial solution to a ticklish point of doctrine.

But this wasn't Rublev's stroke either. It's an established trick. One has to credit the collective genius of icon culture, and Rublev himself only with fine-tuning the rhythm of these echoing outlines very significant though that is.

In fact, it's probably best not to worry too much about



The Life of St Nicholas (1570s), in ink, tempera and gold on paper
Russian State Library, Moscow

credits, or what's norm and what's idiosyncrasy – just so long as one doesn't fall into the opposite tendency of seeing icons as remotely beautiful and spiritual and blank. The repertoire may appear limited, but it's articulate and versatile. The artists may lack (or resist?) Western deep space and solid modelling, but they can do amazing things with flatness.

It can be very conceptual. Look at a Harrowing of Hell, in which there's a perfect circle full of ranks of angels, and beneath it a pit full of devils, and between these two areas there's no special relationship whatever – yet the angels are impaling the devils with long red spears. The spears simply go from A to B like arrows in a diagram. In Western art Heaven and Hell have to get into a (foregone) physical fight. In the icon Heaven wins without any contact. Much better theology.

Or the effect can be very human. The embrace of a Madonna and Child is embodied in the way their flat, cut-out shapes are arranged in a series of tuck-unders and overlaps, and in one such there's touching device.

Normally baby's cheek nestles against the mother's by the one curve overlapping the other slightly; here the two edges are pressed together with no overlap, joined in a long tangent. And then, where the baby's hand clutches the virgin's chin, the image suddenly breaks into 3D – it's a real, solid grip.

The icon painters, I would guess, knew quite a lot about the sort of pictorial effects that, at first sight, they seem not to know about.

For instance, you get Virgin and Baby pictures that are derived from a prototype supposed to have been painted from life by St Luke. The

legend is peculiarly implausible (if you think about the relative ages of Jesus and Luke). It explains some of the conservatism of the icon: if you have an authentic picture of Mary and Jesus, the priority is to transmit it as accurately as possible.

But the interesting point about the legend is that it shows the iconists had the notion of "painting from life". Actually, they sometimes practised it too.

If there's a fault to this show, it's that it too much encourages the "blank" view of icons. They look lovely and holy, of course, displayed in a dim, pseudo-religious light, but it obscures their various ways in which they do indeed come "from life". There's the liturgical life of the church, where they would be kissed, censed and adored. There's the intellectual life of theology. There's the practical life of the studios where they were painted by artists who would know other sorts of art, and presumably worked in daylight. But here one feels too much – as was traditionally claimed of some icons – that they were "not painted by human hand".

And it's this blank view that's behind the present wide usage of "icon", as when it's applied to Mickey Mouse or a VW Beetle or a Coke Bottle. Pop art, of course, is a crucial part of this story, and the sort of sociology that goes with pop art, that sees the contemporary world as subject to the irresistible and universal power of mediatic images, things one can only gawk at.

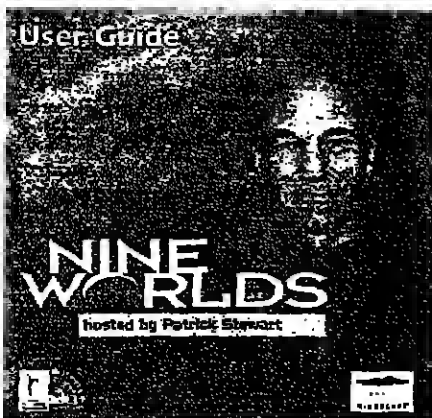
And icons, if seen as images that are impersonal, repetitive, psychologically flat, simply given do provide the appropriate metaphor – a metaphor that's now become everyday currency.

But this is unfair to icons; come to that, unfair to our world, too.

The Art of Holy Russia: Icons from Moscow 1400-1600 at the Royal Academy until 14 June; admission: £5-50 + various concessions.

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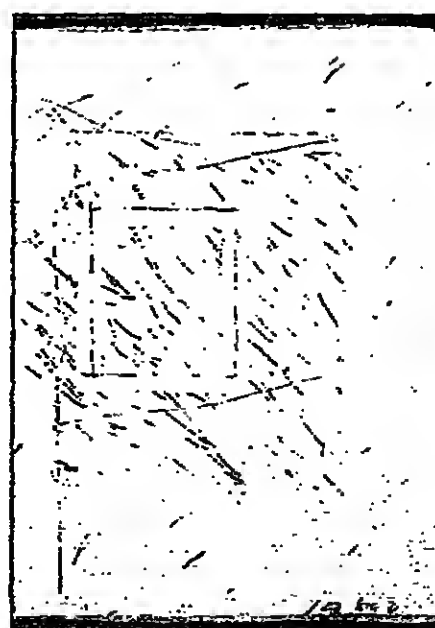
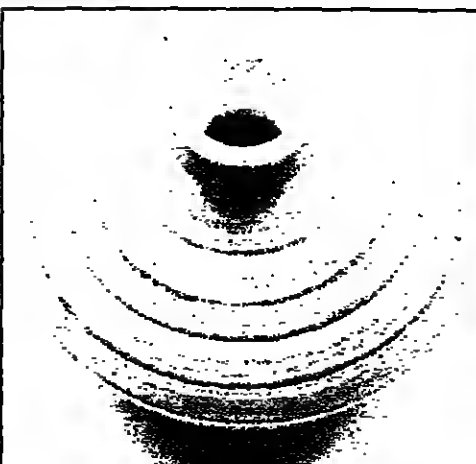
Dramatic ceramics reveal potted histories



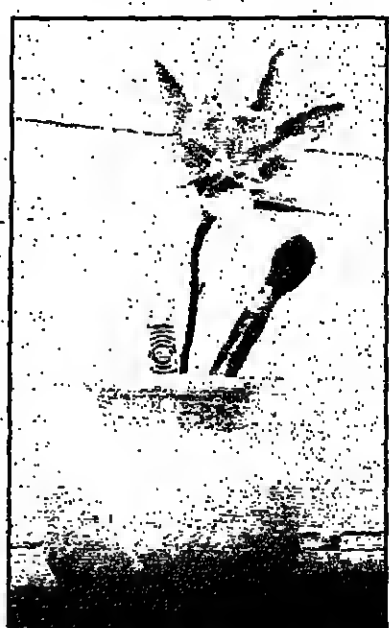
All shapes and size of pots can brighten your spirits. John Windsor selects the best of the latest crop

RALPH LEVY sees his big-shouldered amphoras as vessels disguised as people. Put several in a row, he says, and they begin to look like the thousands of little terracotta bobs created by Antony Gormley. Some of Levy's have sprouted nipples, others wings. The blue? It's pure Yves Klein. He dotes on the colour. "Get it right, and it's mesmerising", he says. A 3ft-high Levy amphora costs £250 at The Potters Field, a show of 15 Sussex potters at the Phoenix Gallery, 12-14 Waterloo Place, Brighton, until 25 April. Prices £40-£800. Inquiries (01273-674511).

THERE was a time when nobody wanted to know even the names of the country potters who turn out the thousands of cheap pots imported from Asia. Things have changed. This 19-inch water pot in the Craft Council's "Handmade in India" exhibition, is the work of Ali Daud Kumbhar. Recognition has not hoisted his prices. This one is £38. The exhibition is until 28 June at the Crafts Council Gallery, 44a Pentonville Road, Islington N1, then in Nottingham and Leicester. Inquiries (0171-278 7700).



INTO the farthest reaches of abstraction – veteran ceramicist and former painter Gordon Baldwin's "Drawing in August", a 34-inch high framed drawing on paper in white chalk, acrylic and charcoal, with graphite decoration. It is estimated at £300-£400 among the 330 lots from the Liliana Epstein studio pottery collection, at Christie's South Kensington on Monday 27 April at 2pm. Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (0171-321 3120).



LOOMING ten feet tall, "Art Prize" is in the South London Gallery's show, Lovcraft, which features artworks that are the product of devotion. Georgie Hatton, 30, and Simon Perriton, 34, both Central St Martins graduates, spent more than three weeks pasting papier mache over Art Prize's wood and chicken wire frame, shaped to resemble one of Winsor and Newton's little brush pots. The show is until 10 May at the South London Gallery, 65 Peckham Road, London SE5 8UH (0171-703 6120).



NOTHING counterfactual about the Indian-born Turner prizewinner Anish Kapoor's 9ft long wood and gesso construction. It's called "Pot for Her" – at least it's intended for a human. Estimate £25,000-£35,000 in Christie's sale of contemporary art, tomorrow (2pm) at 8 King Street, London SW1 (0171-839 9060).

Justine Smith's Beano dogs, featured last week, are showing at Paul Smith, 40-44 Floral Street, Covent Garden, central London: last days today and tomorrow (071-585 1454).





Left: Paul McCartney bathes his daughter Mary in 1969

Right: Portrait of James McCartney, Paul and Linda's youngest child

Below: A study of a mannequin from a series of photographs portraying Linda's unique view of nature in conflict with the man-made world

All photographs: Linda McCartney



Linda's legacy – through a lens sweetly

No mere rock chick, her unconventional approach paved the way for today's celebrity photographers, says Reuel Gordon

THERE is that old cliché about the Sixties: "If you remember it, you weren't there".

Linda McCartney's legacy to photography is not only that she was there, but also remembered to bring her trusted Pentax at all times. While many of her famous subjects – rock icons such as Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Jim Morrison, and Brian Jones – the worse for wear on assorted cocktails on drink and drugs, were often struggling with the powers of recall from the previous hour's excesses, McCartney, (nee Eastman) was in the corner, snapping away.

By the early Seventies these four had all died prematurely and McCartney's pictures of them took on a legacy of their own, acquiring the status of an historical document of a bygone era. Not bad for a woman who was dismissed as a rock chick, but who nevertheless blazed a trail for the likes of Annie Leibovitz and Jill Furmanovsky.

McCartney's talent is often described as no more than being in the right place at the right time: so were a lot of people, but it was McCartney who got the shots. Her interest in photography grew after reading art history and not, as commonly misconceived because of her family ties to Eastman Kodak – there is no connection.

At college she was not taught technique but told that the key to making great pictures was finding the right inspiration at the right moment. A variation on Henri Cartier-Bresson's "Decisive Moment", but more in tune with the



1960s ethos of producing work almost by default and of the artist being a free spirit.

Her images, therefore, often lack the formality of composition, with the subjects at times being caught off-centre, or hovering at the edge of the frame. But seen in the context of 1960s emphasis on spontaneity, they make perfect sense.

This random, almost haphazard approach

to photography, where she rarely used a light meter and had little affinity with the mechanics of the medium and scant knowledge of films, shutter speeds and so on, meant that her pictures lacked a consistency that separates the good photographers from the truly great ones.

She had a good eye, but photography is as much a craft as an art form, and it was the more mundane aspects of taking pictures with which she never quite came to terms.

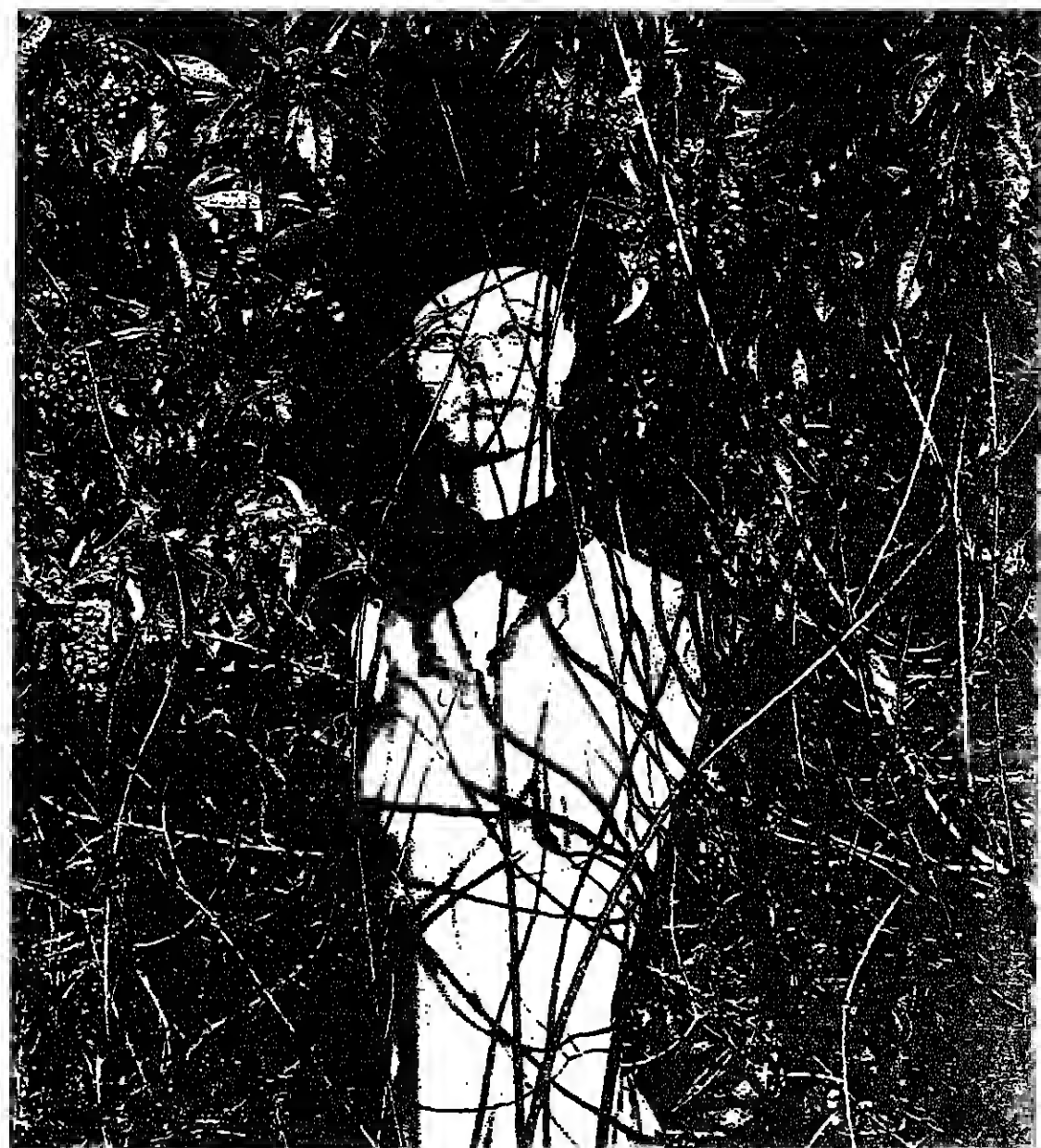
Yet, although she lacked technical proficiency, all good portrait photographers need to bring something out of the sitter in an instant and this is a skill she undoubtedly possessed. In the introduction to her 1992 book *Sixties: Portrait of an era*, David Bailey implored her: "to stop taking so many pictures of Paul and her family." He has a point. They are amazingly sweet to the point of nausea, but they were a couple very much in love with each other and these images are a testament to the bond between them.

The best portraits are the ones where there was a tension between Linda and her sitters, most memorably in pictures of John and Yoko. In one picture taken of Lennon at Abbey Road Studios, she brilliantly captures his unremitting arrogance and insecurity.

McCartney never got the respect she craved from her peers. Perhaps it was jealousy: here, after all, was a striking and intelligent woman who was also married to one of the most famous men in the world and what's more she fancied herself a photographer.

In retrospect, these aspirations were not misguided – look to her picture of Brian Jones, elegantly wasted but still with his looks intact, and you can see the makings of a unique photograph. Not one of the greats, perhaps, but certainly one capable of producing striking and memorable images.

Reuel Gordon is the editor of the *British Journal of Photography*



Searching for a cure for the silent killer of women

Linda McCartney's sudden death has highlighted the toll cancer takes – and controversial treatments, writes Jeremy Laurance

THE best way to remember Linda McCartney, Sir Paul's wife, said on Sunday, would be to "go veggie".

McCartney was a life-long campaigner for vegetarianism and animal rights. Sadly, her healthy lifestyle was not enough to protect her from the breast cancer that kills almost 14,000 women a year in Britain – the equivalent of 270 a week. She was 56, well below the ages of 70-84 at which deaths from the cancer peak.

Although diet is thought to

be a factor in many cancers, there is no evidence that vegetarianism offers protection against cancer of the breast. At one time, a high level of fat was thought to be an important cause – breast cancer is commoner in countries with a Western-style high fat diet – but two major studies published in the last couple of years have now cast doubt on this link.

The only component of the diet known to effect the risk of breast cancer is alcohol. A recent study showed an increased incidence of 20-30 per cent in women who have a couple of drinks a day. However, the protective effect of the alcohol on the heart when drinking is moderate, is thought to outweigh the increased risk from cancer.

The first line of defence against breast cancer is regular self-examination and screening for lumps, bumps and other changes. It was a routine screening at the Princess Grace Hospital in London that picked up the tumour in McCartney's

breast in December 1995.

The lump was removed, but the exact cause of her treatment after that is unclear. It appears the cancer was already advanced and had spread beyond the breast, for after undergoing an initial course of chemotherapy in Britain she later travelled to the US for controversial high dose treatment which is still unproven.

Known as hydros chemotherapy, this involves giving the patient highly toxic chemotherapy, at the limit of the body's tolerance, in a last-ditch attempt to clear the cancer from the body. The toxic drugs destroy the bone marrow, where the red blood cells are made, necessitating a bone marrow transplant.

McCartney had a stem-cell transplant, a less traumatic alternative, which involves withdrawing the stem or "seed" cells from her bone marrow before the start of the chemotherapy, growing replacement marrow from them in the laboratory and putting the newly-grown mar-

row back after treatment is complete. There was speculation yesterday that her treatment may have been delayed because of her well-known opposition to animal experiments. All drugs used in chemotherapy are tested on animals, presenting her with a painful

"Money cannot buy a cure for advanced breast cancer – only research can do that"

dilemma when she was told she needed them herself. Cancer experts said yesterday it was sad that she had gone to the US for treatment because it implied British women were not getting the best care here.

Although high-dose chemotherapy followed by stem-cell transplant is increasingly used in the US, for those who can afford it, there is no evidence that it improves survival. One expert said: "Money cannot buy a

cure for advanced breast cancer – only research can do that."

The suddenness of her death took everyone by surprise. Last July she was planning an expansion of her frozen food business and a few months later she watched her daughter.

Stella, the fashion designer, unveil her latest collection in Paris. Then tests last month showed the cancer had spread to her liver.

Death comes when the growth of the cancer halts the function of certain critical organs to which it can spread – liver, lung, bone or brain. Dr Jo Reynolds of the Cancer Research Campaign said: "It depends on the organ involved how quickly the end comes. It

also depends on the body's general ability to cope with the cancer. In that condition minor illnesses such as a cold or flu could precipitate things."

Although McCartney looked well in her last weeks, steroid drugs may have disguised the weight loss associated with advanced cancer and made her look fuller in the face. Her husband, who was at her bedside in California where she died, said the end had been mercifully quick.

If caught early, breast cancer can be cured with surgery to remove the lump together with chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy to eliminate any cancer cells left behind. Cancer cells may be distributed around the body in the blood or the lymphatic system and the lymph nodes under the arm are therefore checked for signs of spread. The size of the lump and the extent of the spread determines the extent of the surgery.

In past decades, radical mastectomy was common, involv-

ing removal of the entire breast and underlying tissue up under the arm. No survival advantage was shown for most patients and with advances in chemotherapy and radiotherapy this mutilating operation has now been largely abandoned. However, a recent survey in south east England showed the use of ordinary mastectomy (removal of the breast only) varied widely among surgeons with some treating 80 per cent of patients in this way and some none at all.

When the cancer is found to have spread to other organs, patients and their doctors have a choice.

Either they can settle for palliative treatment aimed at making the patient as comfortable as possible so they enjoy the time left to them or they can go for the more aggressive option – high dose chemotherapy – which is more risky but carries a chance of getting rid of the cancer. Until the mid 1980's Britain had the highest

breast cancer death rate in the world. The reasons remained unexplained, but poor standards of treatment are thought to have been one factor. Since then deaths have fallen 12 per cent, but the incidents continue to rise.

An important reason for the fall in deaths is the growing use of the hormonal drug tamoxifen which has been shown to prevent recurrence of the disease in post-menopausal women.

Latest evidence suggests it may also help prevent first cancers occurring in women at high risk a major US study was stopped earlier this month after the drug, given to women with a family history of the disease, was shown to cut the incidents of breast cancer by 44 per cent.

Dr Reynolds said: "We don't know why the incidents in the UK is so high. We are obviously beginning to do the right things in catching cancer early and treating it better. But there is still a lot we don't understand."

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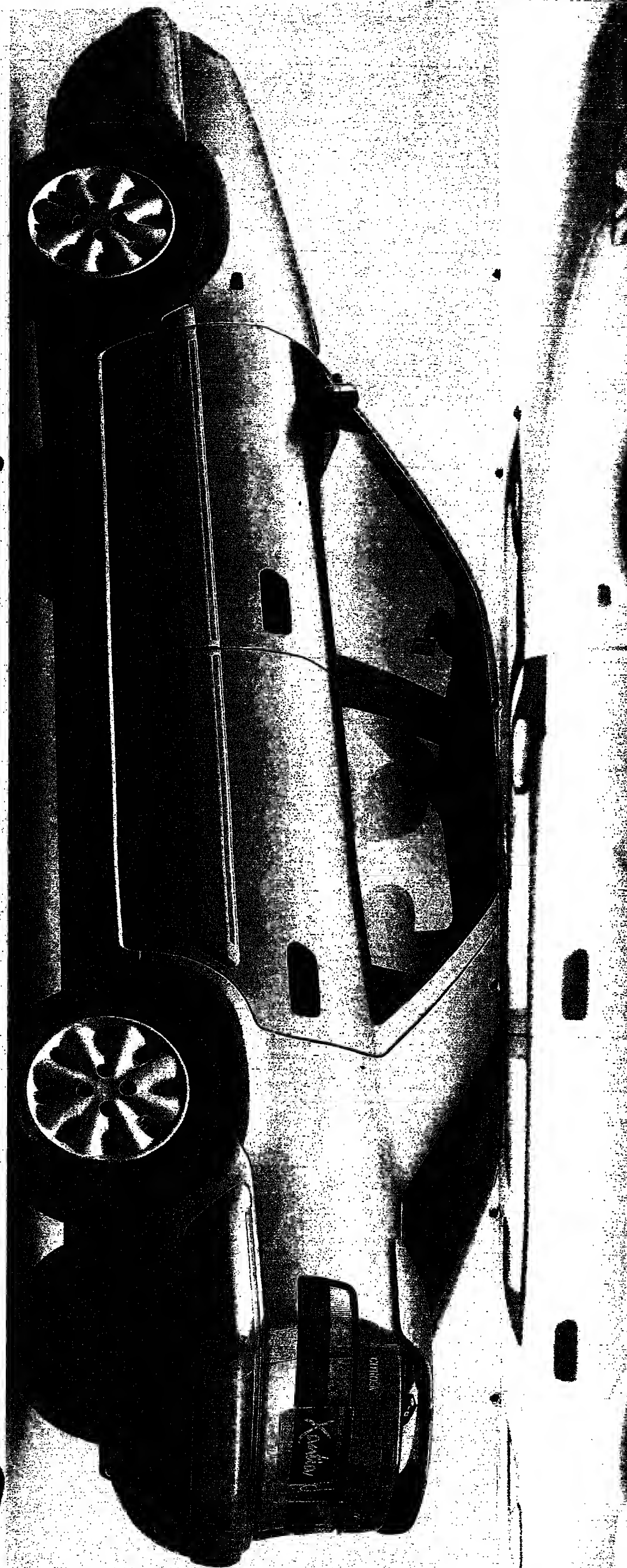
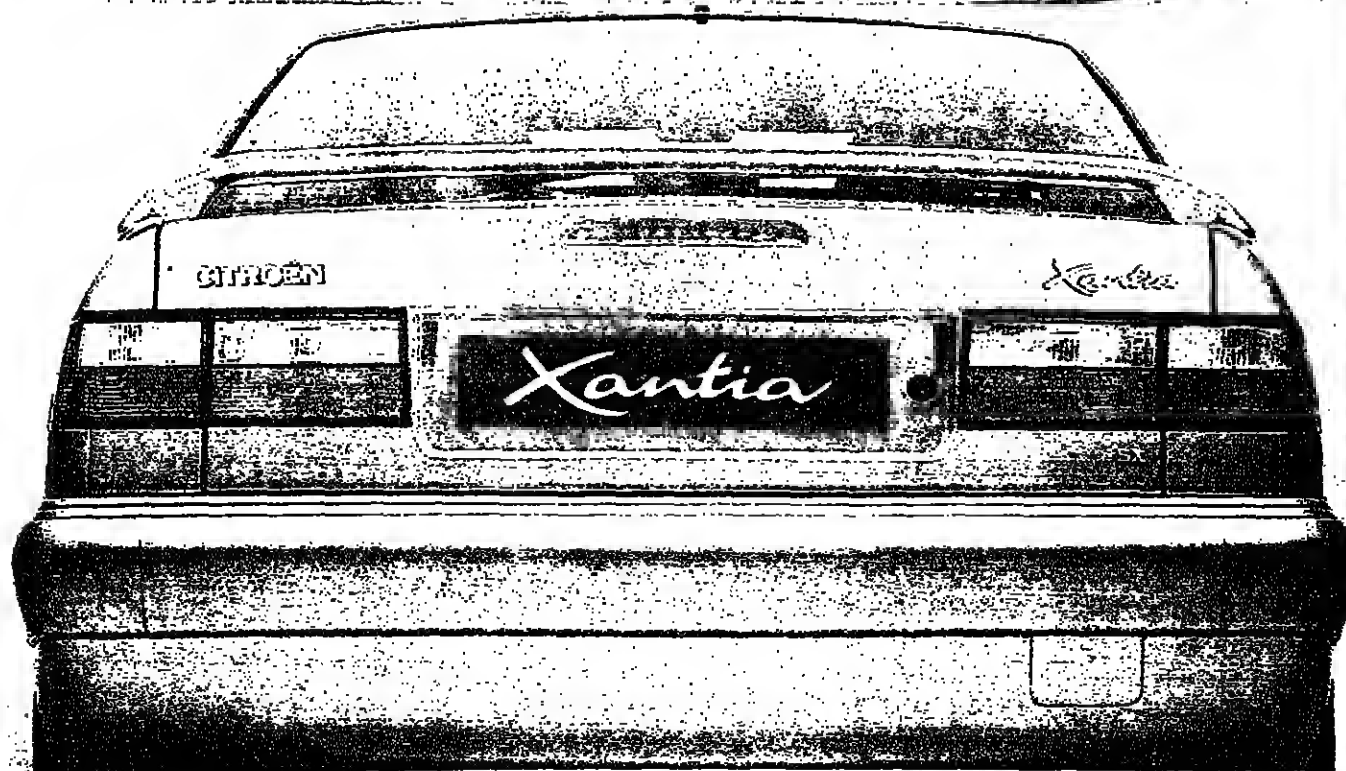
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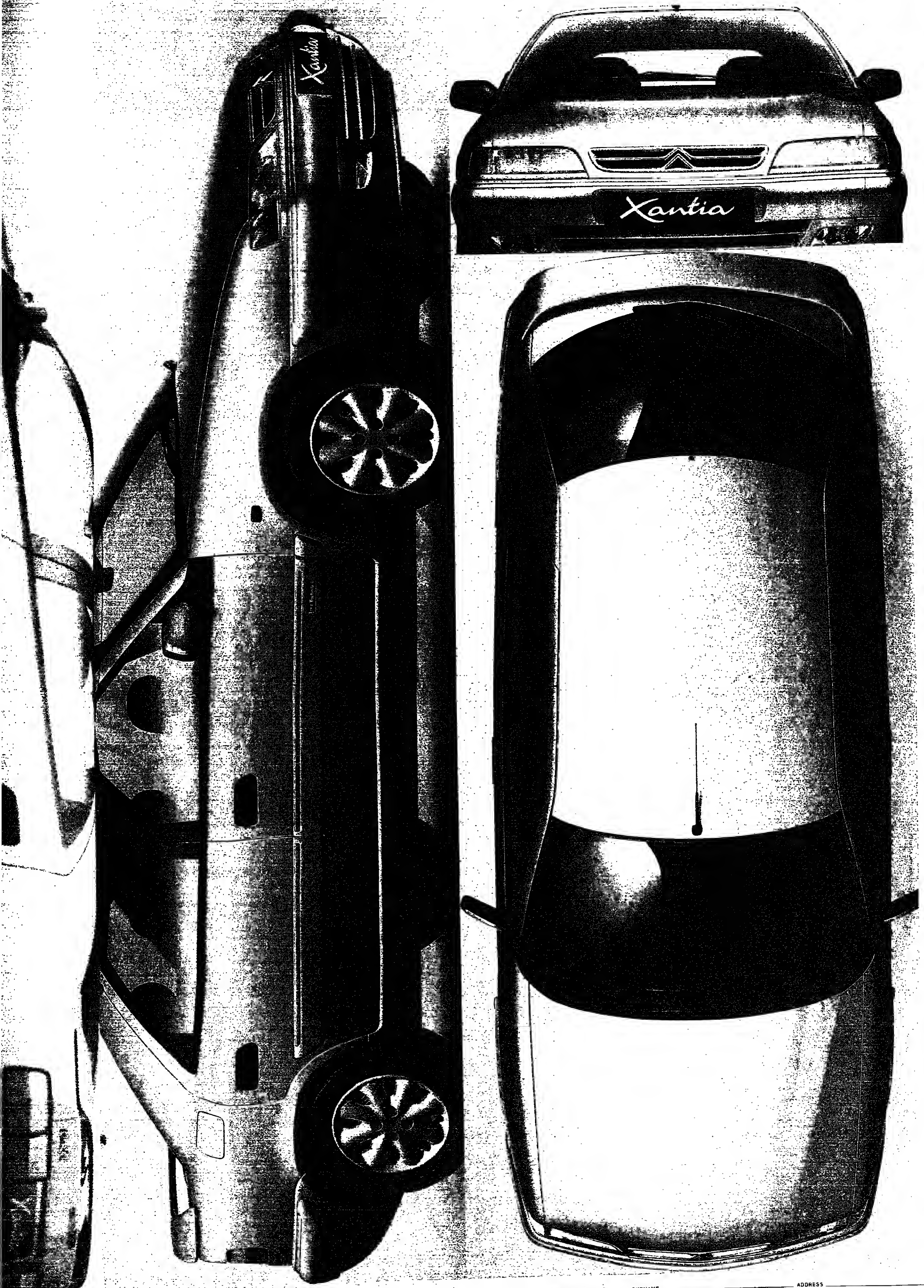


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Accused - the bully's tale

Parents of children accused of bullying have few places to turn for help, but that could change, reports Celia Dodd

ALL parents worry about their children being bullied. With one in four children involved, bullying is rightly seen as a scourge of Britain's schools. It is a measure of national concern that today David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education, opens a conference on bullying and its prevention, organised by the children's charity Kidscape.

So far public interest in the subject has focused almost exclusively on the victims of this oppressive behaviour. Parents are bombarded with information about how to tell whether their child is a victim: the most tragic cases of death or suicide are held up as dire warnings. Meanwhile bullies are invariably depicted as two-dimensional baddies.

So what if a parent discovers not that their child is a victim but, horror of horrors, a bully? They can expect little help - certainly none from the usual conduits of advice, the popular press - and no sympathy. Suddenly labels like 'bully' and 'victim' seem oversimplistic and decidedly unhelpful.

That is what Alison Davies discovered when her ten-year-old son Joseph was accused of bullying another boy at his independent junior school last year. Most parents in Alison's situation flatly refuse to believe such accusations. After all, accepting that it might be true means facing the notion that there must be something badly wrong with their child, their family and their parenting. And if you do believe the accusation, it means you might not give your child parental support when he or she needs it more than ever before.

But at the time Alison felt she had to take on board accusations expressed with conviction by a distressed parent and backed up by a teacher. She says: "I felt physically sick at the idea that my son, who always seemed to be easy-going and kind, might actually have a rather nasty side - and that it was probably my fault. I found it very difficult to talk about because it seemed such a shameful thing to admit to. The word 'bullying' is a blanket term for a multitude of sins, from actual bodily harm to name-calling - even, according to Gaby Shenton, assistant director of Kidscape, the kind of unpleasantness which is common when friendships break up.

But, particularly at the milder end of the spectrum, it's not always easy for adults to get to the bottom of what is really going on. The dynamics be-



Days of terror: It is not always easy to work out what has gone on between children, their relationships can be as complex as adults

between children can be just as complex as adult relationships and open to a variety of interpretations. There is no room for knee-jerk assumptions of guilt.

Margaret McGowan of the Advisory Centre for Education says: "When schools com-

cedures to deal with bullying. These range from traditional punishments to anger-management groups and the increasingly popular "No Blame" approach, which brings together all the children involved to work out a solution. "No Blame" is widely recommended here after it was shown to reduce bullying by over half in Sweden, where all schools are obliged to use it.

If all else fails temporary or permanent exclusion is the ultimate sanction, but before this can be implemented parents have the right to put their side of the case to the school governors, and, with permanent exclusion, to an independent appeal committee.

Agencies such as the Children's Society, concerned at the escalating number of exclusions, point out that bullying is playing a significant role in these increasing incidents. For while some children get excluded for bullying, others do so

because they have reacted - behaviour which was itself an attempt to escape from bullies. The problem for schools is that they are often under immense pressure to punish bullies. Peter Sharp, principal educational psychologist for Southampton, says: "Unfortunately most of the parents who ring up complaining that their child has been bullied are ready to draw blood - they're in a terrible state, they want revenge."

This can make a detached assessment of the situation difficult, although the best schools somehow manage it. If teachers aren't seen to act, angry parents who are blind to all but their own view of a complex situation, may take the law into their own hands.

KIDSCAPE - 152 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9TR, publishes leaflets on bullying which include advice for parents of bullies and runs a helpline 0171 730 3300.

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Ordeal: Emma Dally was forced to question her daughter Rebecca (below, left) after she was accused of bullying

'Most of the parents who complain that their child has been bullied are ready to draw blood - they're in a terrible state, they want revenge'

plain about a child's behaviour it can be very difficult for parents to know what to do about it, particularly when it's happening inside school.

"Every case is different and it all depends which side you're hearing about seems to be the problem. It's usually quite complicated."

The Kidscape literature lists endless reasons for bullies' behaviour. Is the child under too much pressure? Has there been a traumatic event such as a divorce or a new baby? Does he feel insecure? Has he been bullied or abused himself? Or is he just spoilt rotten? Alison trawled through them all but could find no clues, and after talking to other parents, pupils

school and very anxious to make friends. In the long-term it was Joseph who suffered - he became withdrawn and depressed and hated school for months afterwards.

Agencies working in the field, which receive many calls from parents of alleged bullies, admit that children can be wrongly accused of bullying. Gaby Shenton, says: "Sometimes it can be that the wrong child is accused, particularly because bullying happens in secret. That's why it's so important that schools are really noting what's happening - not just in class, but in the playground, in the cloakroom and on the way to school." Many schools now have specific pro-

'It's a trip for the gifted and you're not one of them'

REVELATIONS

The times: Autumn 1973
The place: Palo Alto - California USA
The Man: David Leavitt - author of *The Lost Language of Cranes*

I WAS a very ambitious, probably somewhat arrogant, twelve-year-old with incipient literary aspirations. But one day, riding to school on the bus, I overheard some of my friends talking about a field trip to ride on a glass-bottomed boat in San Francisco Bay. All my friends seemed to be going but I knew nothing about it. I was full of trepidation because I had a strong suspicion I was being excluded. Later that day I went to my science teacher to enquire about the trip. Knocking on his door, my heart was in my mouth. I can still remember him as if it was yesterday, although I've forgotten his name, a softly spoken man in his fifties, quite nice with slicked back hair and a moustache but a little chubby. Much to his regret, my science teacher explained: "It's a field trip for MGMS. David, and you're not one." It stood for mentally gifted minors and there was a programme in the state of California whereby every school would be given a certain amount of extra money for each student who was designated mentally gifted - anyone scoring above 98 per cent in a standardised test. Up till that moment I had no idea what a test was. I was

a kid - I never took them seriously.

Growing up in the shadow of Stanford University, and what would soon become silicon valley, it was a very intellectually sophisticated area. Everybody was desperately competitive and achievement-orientated. I didn't go to school to learn but to succeed. In retrospect that seems dreadful. It was a time and a place when a lot of faith was put on standard measures. We were always being given them to determine our career aptitudes. At the end I would be told I could either be a lawyer or a hairdresser! What's even more crucial before entering an American university you have to sit a SAT, a standard aptitude test. My school was particularly keen on the concept: it was even named the Lewis H Terman Junior High School after one of the inventors of the IQ test. The faith that was put in those tests!

Simply, I had not done well enough and was therefore not allowed to go on the trip. It was a brutalising moment for me. I was horrified, the first time I was on the receiving end of a terrible injustice. It was history of a very certain nature - not based on race but aptitude measured in this very arbitrary way. Walking away from the science teacher's office I was angry, furious and deeply panicked because this could set a trend that would determine the rest of my life. I knew I would have to fight for everything I wanted.

Why didn't I do well in the



I saw those tests as a measure of my worth as a human being

test? I'm convinced that I tended to worry about things, making the questions much more complex than they actually were. I remembered this one question from a test I actually sat: students had to select the opposite of "incarcerate" from a list of possibilities. The correct answer was "liberate" but I opted for "exile". It seemed perfectly sensible - incarcerate is to imprison somebody within and to exile is to imprison them without. I was furious when I discovered my error. I felt like a pariah and remember clearly the day everybody else went off on the boat trip, it was

horrible. Half the class were missing and I felt so miserable. What was worse I knew I would have all the accounts of my lovely little friends to look forward to about what joyous times they had.

It was beginning of a whole complex of being judged which dovetailed with my anxieties about homosexuality - of which I had barely begun to become conscious. Now I realise I was envisioning the day when I was going to have to tell my parents. They would hate me so I needed to counterbalance this one terrible piece of news with lots of good things: "I might be gay but, hey, I'm a mentally gifted minor with straight As."

I saw those tests not merely as measures of my abilities, but of my worth as a human being. If there is such a thing as obsessive compulsive disorder I certainly had it. It had become an emblem for me: if I could pass the SAT I would be OK. My parents were very low key but I think even they thought I was a little over the top, but as we were such a neurotic family I fitted in very well! Eventually I did fine, not well, on the SAT and got into Yale. But I avoided any classes where there were exams, preferring assessment by essays.

Exclusion remained a trauma whether it was social exclusion, not being invited to a party, or a professional exclusion, not getting a grant. I needed to be in a relationship because I hated being single

because dating is such a nightmare of being judged. As you can imagine, reading reviews of my books is very hard. I still continue, to be very much at the mercy of any figure of authority although I'm 36 years old - a man!

If I've got over it, it's because I've become convinced that private life matters more than public life. I've been with my partner Mark Mitchell for six years now and we've moved to a remote house just outside Rome, Italy. However, I'm very conscious that it is different to fence yourself in rather than being fenced out.

Missing out on that boat trip was the defining experience of my adolescence, a watershed. Perhaps that is why it is going to form a pivotal point in my next book.

However, it bolstered a certain degree of independence in me. The only good side of a exclusion, for a writer, is that it helps to develop a sense of pride in being an observer. You can not observe unless you are an outsider. But often what is good for you as a writer is not pleasant, or good for you as a human being. Writers are notoriously not decent people - real jerks.

Sometimes I wonder how my life would have been different if I had done well on those standardised tests and not been pre-occupied with the fear of my own failure.

Interview by Andrew G Marshall
The Page Turner by David Leavitt is published by Little Brown at £15.99

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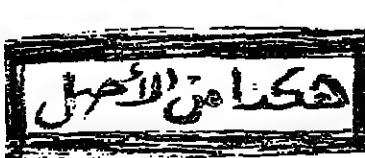
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ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Prince of Wales will visit the Cathedral in 1900 Year Fests, visits the Cathedral in visits the recreation work. The Princess Royal attended the annual dinner of the Scouts and Guides at Club of London at the Savoy Hotel, London on 22nd. The Duke of Gloucester, Honorary Air Commodore, RAF Alderm, visits the station, Epsom, Surrey, Hampshire. Princess Alexandra will go to the Maternity Department of Epsom General Hospital, Epsom, Surrey, on 23rd. The Duke of Devonshire, 11th Baron, visits the station, Epsom, Surrey, both for the Epsom Health Care NHS Trust.

Changing of the Guard
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment will perform the Changing of the Guard at Horse Guards, 11am. In Barbican the Duke of Wellington's Regiment mount the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, Band pre-moved by the German Guard.

For reasons of space, the **LAW REPORT** section will have been held over.

THE INDEPENDENT

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Blair: making his own luck

WHEN considering whether to promote one of his generals Napoleon used to ask "has he luck?" He would have been pleased with Tony Blair. Certainly the Prime Minister enjoys more of this precious commodity than his predecessor, John Major, who may well be remembered by historians as the "unlucky Prime Minister". He may have initiated the Northern Ireland peace process but it was Tony Blair who came to be in a position to shake the "hand of history" in Belfast. But Tony Blair's success in Ulster was due to more than his lucky stars and his success so far in the Middle East is also attributable to a happy and rare combination of luck and political skills. For Tony Blair it seems as though the hand of history may be about to beckon again in the Middle East, although it is far from assured.

Of course Tony Blair would not be making this trip at all were it not for the fact that Britain happens to be holding the Presidency of the European Union. He is also lucky that Robin Cook's visit preceded his and, as it were, "broke the ice" for his boss at this particular party and dispatched the unpleasant business of letting the Israelis know precisely where Europe stands on West Bank settlements. And he arrives at a time when the peace process is bogged down but when the protagonists may be looking for some passing Samaritan to help them out of their rut. This, perhaps, is what is behind the apparently spontaneous offer by the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, to "go anywhere" including London to bring fresh momentum to the Middle East peace process. But, as one of Tony Blair's heroes, Lady Thatcher, was fond of telling protégés, "you make your own luck in this life".

As Israel celebrates her 50th birthday it is as well to remember that the two great colonial powers in the region used to be the British and the French. Britain's handling of the end of her mandate in Palestine in 1948 was not the most glorious in decolonisation. The British Foreign Office was long regarded as a nest of pro-Arab sympathies. Mr Blair had a lot of historical baggage to live down here. But most importantly the Prime Minister lacked the crude levers of power that would make his job easier. Europe has nothing like the trade and economic and military clout that the United States has. When push comes to shove the EU is not quite in the superpower league. All the more important, then, that Tony Blair has demonstrated such skill in building up a very special relationship with President Clinton.

The political dimension of Anglo-American friendship has proved to be more valuable than anyone could have foreseen. A few weeks ago the Prime Minister visited a beleaguered Bill Clinton in Washington and went out of his way to help a man he insisted on calling a "friend". This was at a time, we should recall, when the political pundits were running their tape measures across Vice-President Gore. In political terms Britain certainly left behind some grateful allies in Washington. Bill Clinton is the man who made innumerable telephone calls to the parties in Stormont in order to seal the Good Friday agreement. When it comes to the Middle East Mr Blair and the European Union cannot hope to emulate the power and influence of the United States.

But Blair does not have to replace the United States and he does not wish to. He has correctly identified his role as assisting the American-sponsored peace process; any European role will not cut across this. It is made possible because President Clinton can trust Tony Blair.

The second thing Tony Blair has going for him is Tony Blair. He is an engaging man. Both in Northern Ireland and the Middle East they have not yet developed the "cult of youth" in political leadership which we have witnessed. They must find this extraordinarily young man with a big smile who returned his party to office after 18 years in the wilderness a remarkable novelty. If nothing else, to whatever luck and natural charm he may have inherited must be added those essential political skills he has worked hard to develop and have found their use in the arena of peace-making in a way and at a speed that was unthinkable a year ago. He has been adept at making natural enemies see the point in working together. He is able to communicate to them the lessons of history. He has recognised that progress is only possible when protagonists are determined to make it happen.

Tony Blair is a keen football fan and would be less than human if he were not tempted by "doing a double" and brokering peace in Ulster and the Middle East before the first birthday of his administration. We must be cautious still about the prospects; as such triumphs are as rare in politics as they are in sport.

Rock solid role model

LOOKING back at her life, it is hard to understand why Linda McCartney encountered the consistent hostility and vilification that she did. It is also difficult not to admire her patient endurance of it. Those who attacked her made no secret of their contempt for her virtues and the values which she represented. Now, at a time when sentimentality is supposed to be unfashionable, it is still worth remembering these.

First of all, compared to most "rocky families", she provided an alternative model for a wife and family. She sensibly ensured that her children had a state education in comprehensive schools. She provided a rock solid family life. At 56 she died young but lived to see the success of her daughter Stella as a fashion designer.

Second, she was courageous in promoting the beliefs she felt so passionately about, and hers were worthwhile causes. It should be remembered that when she began to espouse vegetarianism and animal rights they were nothing like as mainstream even as they are today.

Thirty years ago Linda Eastman was regarded as the pushy American who came over to steal our "prince of pop". If so, Paul McCartney was obviously very happy to be thieves and enjoy the happiest of marriages. That should be good enough for all of us.



Human Rights Bill

NOW that Parliament has returned from recess, the Human Rights Bill is waiting to go into Committee in the House of Commons. We warmly welcome this Bill, which brings the European Convention on Human Rights into British law. We are glad that the Government has also shown a willingness to discuss the establishment of a statutory body to promote awareness of the Human Rights Act. We believe that such a body is needed from the beginning if the Act is to fulfil its true potential.

We therefore ask the Government to consider the early appointment of a Human Rights Commissioner. A Commissioner could promote good practice in the protection of human rights, and provide advice and support to public bodies affected by the Act, as well as to individuals who believe their rights have been infringed. A Commissioner could also, after wide public consultation, advise the Government on the long-term options for a Human Rights Commission and its potential relationship with existing statutory bodies.

ANDREW PUDEPHATT, *Chancery*
LEE JASPER, *1990 Trust*
SALLY GREENGROSS, *Age Concern England*
MALCOLM SMART, *Article 19*
RICHARD WOOD, *British Council of Organisations of Disabled People*
KASHMIR SINGH, *British Sikh Federation*
MARTIN PENDERGAST, *Christians for Human Rights*
SHELAGH DLOCK, *Twelve*
FRANCES CROOK, *Howard League for Penal Reform*
SARAH SPENCER, *Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR)*
FRANCESCA KLUG, *Human Rights Incorporation Project, King's College, London*
CLAUDIA DE MORAES, *Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI)*
ANNE OWERS, *Justice*
MAHMUD QUAYUM, *Law Centres Federation*
ROGER SMITH, *Legal Action Group*
JOHN WADHAM, *Liberty*

LETTERS

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number
Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

JUDI CLEMENT, *MIND*
SUKHVINDER STUBBS, *The Runnymede Trust*
ANGELA PENROSE, *Save the Children*
ANGELA MASON, *Stonewall London EC1*

Fees for students

YOUR front page story "Fees forcing young to quit education" (20 April) is not borne out by the most recent evidence. Applications from 18- to 21-year-olds for places this autumn were 270,255 in mid-March, compared with 268,392 at the same time last year. That is an increase of around 1 per cent.

The projections in the Departmental Report, prepared some time ago, were intended to reflect the fact that there were 13,000 more students going to university last year than expected. In fact, the projections in the 1997 Departmental Report anticipated 30 to 31 per cent of under-21-year-olds going to university rather than the 23 per cent who actually did so. The figure in the Departmental Report for 1998-99 simply reflects the projections already made by the previous government before fees were introduced. However, given the rate at which applications from younger students were already running, demand is already higher this year than last.

There is no evidence that fees have had any deterrent effect on school leavers seeking undergraduate places. Demand for higher education continues to rise among school leavers. There will be over 3,000 more places available in universities and colleges for higher education students this year and extra places in the years ahead. Students realise that the introduction of fees, which are not paid by the poorest and which are repaid only according to

post-graduate earnings, is both fair and necessary to enable further expansion to take place in the future.
Dr KIM HOWELLS
*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Department for Education and Employment
London SW1*

WHO but government ministers could imagine that higher education would be the only commodity that is not price-sensitive? When it further transpires that those most deterred from higher education (report, 20 April) turn out to be students from disadvantaged backgrounds, let us not be amazed.

Let us also not be surprised at the fall in the quality of education experience by those who can afford to enter. The Dearing Committee warned of an inevitable degradation in standards if substantial sums of money were not invested immediately. The Government has failed to provide more than a fraction of that required and has ignored the need to get more from the business sector.

In the absence of a standing pay review body, staff are facing yet another sub-inflation pay offer. Soon or later, there will be another round of industrial action which no sane person wants. Our students do not deserve all this.
P K BURGESS
*Immediate Past President,
Association of University Teachers
Dundee*

The end of Fleet Street

Anne McElvay rewrites history when she asserts ("New Labour's First with Murdoch", 20 April) that *The Independent* would not exist had Rupert Murdoch not broken the hold of the print unions at Wapping.

Murdoch moved his papers to Wapping on 24 January 1986. Andreas Whitam Smith had announced his plan for *The Independent* a month earlier, on 27 December 1985. Like Eddy Shah, whose preparations for the spring launch of *Today* were by then well advanced, he proposed to bypass the print unions by using modern technology. Shah had already successfully confronted the unions two years earlier at his plant at Warrington.

The Wapping move had of course been plotted well in advance, but neither Whitam Smith nor Shah had any knowledge of it when they launched their initiatives. It is probable that the timing of the Murdoch coup was dictated in part by the imminent arrival of two new competitors, rather than vice versa.

This is not to deny the significance of Wapping; but its main beneficiaries - apart from Murdoch's own papers - were his existing rivals, who were finally able to slip the union yoke and make good their escape.
MICHAEL LEAPMAN
London SW8

Addicted to war games

LISA DONOVAN (letter, 17 April) queries whether violent computer games are really a threat to children.

Our 12-year-old son has become increasingly addicted to them. My wife and I now have to make an important decision. We can let him grow into adulthood with a distorted, unfeeling view of society, or we can exercise our parental responsibility and ban the wretched things. Are we being unreasonable and heavy-handed in choosing the latter option?
JOHN O'BYRNE
Dublin

Death by supermarket

Your Ludlow story was very interesting ("Saving the view from the bridge", 18 April). After a few years of holidaying abroad I began exploring England again, and found that most pleasant small towns I remember from the 1980s and early 1990s are in their death throes. The reason is invariably a large supermarket either in or out of town, which has sucked in all the customers that formerly maintained local businesses.

Nearly everyone likes the convenience of big supermarkets. But most of us also value pleasant towns. I think there now needs to be a better balance. Maybe it might be a good idea to ban all new supermarket developments if there is another supermarket within, say, 20 miles.

In Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, a shopkeeper said to me: "We saved the town from being wrecked by developers in the 1960s, but now it's been wrecked by supermarkets - I don't know why we bothered." I hope this won't be the epitaph of most other English country towns.
A WOOLF
London NW6

Name these islands

WHAT should we call "These Islands" (Letters 14, 16, 17, 20 April)? How about "The British Isles and Ireland"? After all, the Isle of Man, Hebrides, Shetlands etc are involved too.
MARTIN LYNN
Belfast

SOME day in the future, when Ireland is united, when Scotland and Wales have become fully independent, when the medieval absurdities of the House of Lords and monarchy have been abolished and we have the sense to reunite, voluntarily, in a truly federal system, the name of "these Islands" could well be taken from the initial letters of the four constituent parts, the WISE Islands.
GWYN DAVIES
Woodhouse Eaves, Leicestershire

The 'Titanic' decides to sink - into the lifeboats, women and husbands first



MILES KINGSTON

TODAY I bring you yet another extract from the rediscovered play by Noel Coward, which is called *Brief Tribles*, and is the only full-length comedy he ever set on board the *Titanic*.

The story so far: Maxim and Chloe are on their honeymoon on the *Titanic*. One of their fellow-passengers, unfortunately, is Chloe's first husband Albert, whom she thought dead when he failed to reappear from an expedition to the North Pole. She is thus in the awkward position of being married to two men. The position is further complicated when the *Titanic* runs into an iceberg and decides to sink.

Act Three takes place in a first class lifeboat, in which Chloe has managed to find a space among the other women. They are all addressed by Jim, a ship's steward.

Jim: On behalf of the management, I would like to apologise for the unscheduled collision with an iceberg...

Lady: Never mind about that! When are we going to have dinner?

Jim: I don't think you understand the situation, your ladyship. We shall be lucky to survive at all. We are in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean in a small rowing boat. Lady: Then for heaven's sake start rowing, man, and stop blathering!

Jim: Yes, your ladyship. At this point a man puts his head over the edge, and clammers in. It is Albert.

Albert: Room for one more?

Jim: Sorry, sir. Ladies only. Chloe: Albert!

Jim: You know this gent, madam?

Chloe: Yes. He is my husband.

Jim: Well, OK, jump in, but keep your head down and be prepared to do some rowing.

Chloe: Albert! How was it in the Atlantic?

Albert: Very wet.

Chloe: You must be freezing.

Albert: Yes, I am. On the other hand, when you have been to the North Pole and back and survived...

Chloe: But you didn't.

Albert: Pardon?

Chloe: It's something I've been meaning to ask you. Six months after we got married you went off to the North Pole and never came back. Now you turn up again on the *Titanic*, and you never say anything about what happened in between.

Albert: It was all at my publisher's request. He thought my first book would have a better chance of selling if it had an alluring biography on the back. You know... "Albert Settler has been a cowboy, panhandler, policeman, pirate and professional boxer. He has led an expedition to the North Pole and was on the maiden voyage of the *Titanic*"... that sort of thing.

Chloe: I see... I didn't know you had been a cowboy.

Albert: I haven't yet. That comes next.

Chloe: I see... Well, that certainly beats Maxim for initiative. I don't think he could put anything like that on the back of a book. After his schooldays, his curricu-

lum vitae runs thin. Actually, I'm not sure he was even educated...

Lady: How DARE you!

Jim: Just a moment, just a moment... *(Jim reaches forward and twitches off the lady's hood, revealing that she is a man. Indeed, that she is Maxim in lady's clothing.)* Blimey, a man in disguise!

Chloe: Maxim!

Jim: You know this man, madam?

Chloe: Yes. He is my husband.

Jim: ANOTHER husband?

Chloe: Yes. A rather more recent husband than the other one. We are, in fact, on our honeymoon together.

Jim: I see. Well, madam, if any of your other husbands turn up, be sure to let me know.

Chloe: Maxim, may I ask why you are dressed as a lady?

Maxim: Of course. The explanation is quite simple.

Chloe: I think I know what it is. You were desperate to survive. They were only accepting women in the lifeboats. You dis-

guised yourself as a woman. Oh, Maxim, how could you!

Maxim: You misjudge me, Chloe. It was not like that at all. It is something I was going to talk to you about sooner or later. The fact is that I... I enjoy dressing up in ladies' clothes. There! I have said it.

Chloe: So do I. What could be more normal?

Maxim: I am glad you have taken it so well. The fact is that when I went to dress for dinner, I thought I would have time to spend ten minutes in one of my evening dresses. Alas! No sooner had I assumed female garb than we were struck by an iceberg.

Chloe: How inconsiderate of it.

Maxim: I had no time to change back. I was swept out into the sea, mistaken for a woman and plucked into a lifeboat.

Chloe: How inconsiderate of it.

Maxim: I had no time to change back. I was swept out into the sea, mistaken for a woman and plucked into a lifeboat.

How exciting! But will they escape? Will Maxim's dress get badly crushed and shrunk? Will he get an Oscar for best supporting actor of either gender? Who knows?



Poverty's on the rise, and there are no plans to bring it down



DIANE COYLE
WHY INEQUALITY IS HERE TO STAY

A FIFTH of Britain's population – and a quarter of its children – were living in poverty by 1995, more than double the 1979 proportions. Such was the legacy of Mrs Thatcher's economic miracle. Even more alarmingly, the number below the poverty line is predicted to rise by as much as 2 million, to about 12 million, during the lifetime of this parliament. These figures suggest Britain is facing something close to an economic crisis, as our columnist Gavin Davies – a very wealthy City banker who happens to be a close adviser to the first Labour Chancellor in nearly 20 years – noted yesterday.

Gordon Brown has made it plain that a new deal for the poorest members of society, the long-term unemployed, the low-paid, and children from low income families, is a government priority. His Budget last month was the most redistributive for decades, even slipping in a tax increase on the higher paid through the unobtrusive means of an increase in employers' national insurance contributions. Yet in the grand scheme of economic policy, the £5.2bn he is spending on welfare-to-work programmes, spread over two years, is small beer. The Chancellor has staked his reputation on tough control of public spending, low inflation and steady growth. And a raft of figures due this week will show that he has got off to a flying start in these areas.

Yesterday brought the news that government borrowing last financial year was the lowest for seven years. Ken Clarke set the tough spending plans, but Gordon Brown delivered them. Some experts think the current year could see a repayment of the national debt, starting to repair the damage to Britain's finances wreaked by the Conservatives ahead of the 1992 election. Other figures this week are likely to show a further fall in unemployment, now about the lowest it has been for a decade; low pay and price inflation; and economic growth gliding down to a sustainable and comfortable pace. However you divide up the credit between this government and the last, this looks like an amazingly good economic performance.

Not surprisingly, many people find it hard to understand why, if the economy is doing so well, the Government is not doing a lot more to tackle poverty and inequality. Is this a prosperous and successful nation or not? If it is, why is it scarred by high and rising poverty levels? Who cares about hitting the inflation target and getting the Government's finances into the black if the price is skimping and humiliation for one in every five people?

The answer lies in understanding what governments can and can't do in a modern economy, and this is something on which the 18 Tory years shed a revealing light. Conservative economic policy was characterised by an unintentional mix of large-scale micro-economic mistakes and minor micro-economic miracles. Successive chancellors plunged the country into a recession so deep it wiped out a quarter of the manufacturing base in a con-

ple of years, followed by the biggest boom for decades, followed in turn by the longest downturn since the war.

On the other hand, the Conservative agenda of deregulation and "flexibility" almost certainly improved Britain's long-term growth rate and helped halt the relative economic decline, compared to the US and rest of Europe. It was not so much the flagship policies of mass privatisation and union-bashing that achieved this as the unexciting, back-room stuff: cutting the red tape that had tied up small businesses, so they would employ more staff; introducing competition into telecommunications, and the like.

The lesson rightly drawn by Gordon Brown is that the most important thing a government can achieve in its micro-economic policy – in other words in tax and spending plans and in setting interest rates – is to avoid making mistakes. This explains his emphasis on long-term rules and the orthodoxy of low inflation and low borrowing. After all, he has to get these right; but they are not in themselves the things people care about.

What governments can achieve is an economic policy more modest in its scope but potentially more far-reaching in its consequences. Micro-government has to focus on small changes in the structure of the economy, which can sometimes end up having a big impact on the things that do matter, such as the number of people with jobs, the levels of income and how it is distributed. The reforms to the structure of national insurance contributions announced in the Budget fall into this category. So does the welfare-to-work programme because, modest as it is in terms of the money spent, it might change fundamentally attitudes to claiming benefits.

Many people wonder why the Government is not doing a lot more to tackle poverty

The increasingly controversial "rebranding Britain" project is in the same category of micro-policy. As Tony Blair said at the weekend, looking back at the trepidations who have criticised the Government for trying to be cool, "It's actually about real jobs, real investment, real industry."

He is right. The point of an industrial policy is precisely to encourage businesses to think ahead, to spot new opportunities, to capitalise on recent successes. The Government should be talking up the cutting-edge, creative and scientific industries because they are laying the foundations for future economic prosperity and wealth creation. While the last Labour government's experience of picking winners turned out to be an unhappy one – winners are much better at picking themselves – it would be an outrage if the New Labour government was not bothering to have an industrial policy at all.

It will be difficult enough to generate micro-economic successes that increase prosperity, but the hardest political challenge is going to be sharing the benefits. There are no simple levers the Government can pull to turn higher investment and growth into reductions in poverty and inequality. Ratcheting up government spending? Recent and bitter experience indicates that this would end up being a mistake on both macro and micro scales. If it were that easy, a wealthy country like Britain would not be starting from the current catastrophic situation.

The most hated man in Britain has a good point about sanctions



ANDREW MARR
ON CHANGING A FAILED POLICY

IT'S A JOB one Labour MP always has to have: "the most odious man in Britain" is a semi-formal honorific held in the past by Tony Benn (MOMB, retired, now much-loved grandfatherly diarist), Dennis Skinner (now revered parliamentary relic and almost-loyalist) and Ken Livingstone who, although still a threat as a London mayoral candidate, is officially less odious now that talking to Sinn Féin is done in the best circles.

So, who next? The new candidate-MOMB is George Galloway, a moustachio'd Scottish MP who may need some introduction south of the Border. "Gorgeous George" is the man whose hand-shaking meeting with Saddam Hussein and whose recent rushing into Britain of a 4-year-old Iraqi girl for cancer treatment infuriated the foreign policy establishment.

But he has form. He is almost a professional infirmitator. He is hated by different ministers for an impressive variety of reasons. He was snubbed by Gordon Brown after passing a copy of Paul Routledge's biography of the Chancellor to a journalist. At the Scottish Office, they regard him as a quasi-nationalist and a sub-revolutionary poseur.

Going further back, his fiercely pro-Palestinian line at Dundee city chambers, which flew the PLO flag as it failed to attract investment, was seen as terrible advertising for that struggling town. His career at War on Want, including a sex scandal in Greece was, to put it mildly, controversial. He is not, in short, a sound fellow. He is a leftist romantic, the son for "friendship societies" and international solidarity committees and perhaps the last man in public life who can use the word "cadre" without embarrassment.

But then, our political history is littered with radicals who were mostly disliked, and often daft, but who nevertheless pointed out uncomfortable truths that the respectable, grow-up world blithely refused to confront. Think of indefensible Wilkes and the free press, or Red Ken and the case for London-wide democracy.

It seems to me that on Iraq, Galloway follows squarely in the same tradition. As Rupert Cornwell argued on this page last



George Galloway with the ill Iraqi girl he brought to Britain Photograph: Reuters

week, he is broadly right about the futility of sanctions. But since that article, Galloway has been further vilified on this subject and this weekend was the target of a *News of the World* sex "expose", about which he is saying. Given that the Government is holding a conference in London just now on the vexed question of the Iraqi oil-for-food deal and Galloway is its main tormentor on the issue, the story was at the very least happily timed for the powers that be.

The London conference, which ends today, is in fact further evidence of the oddity, even the madness, of our current position. Let's recap. At the time of the Gulf war, we could easily have destroyed Saddam's army and driven him from power. Given that he is regularly compared in the West to Hitler, historians will wonder why we didn't, whatever the UN position. Instead, we imposed sanctions. But sanctions don't bring down regimes, whether in South Africa, Libya or Iran (Cornwell, op. cit.). Saddam seems, if any-

thing, stronger than he was before the invasion of Kuwait. Sanctions have actually helped him, by aiding the paranoia, ignorance and isolation on which his regime feeds, without in any way undermining his internal power structure.

His torturers and army thugs are free to repress, murder and intimidate across most of Iraq; anyone who thinks that shortages of sugar or painkillers are going to persuade the citizens to rise up in democratic, liberal protest, doesn't know their Baghdad from their Budapest. The only way sanctions have "worked" is in making millions of ordinary Iraqis' lives almost intolerable. They have "worked" in that they have hurt children in hospital. They have "worked" because they have killed peasants whose only crime was to be born in one part of the Middle East rather than another. Meanwhile, Western unease about killing Iraqi civilians for diplomatic ends is beginning to grow, so that one day it may rival Western unease about actually fighting.

The London conference is about a proposed expansion of the barrier arrangement that allows food into Iraq in return for oil. Though Galloway and the Arab League regard this as a US-British plot ultimately designed to keep a sanctions policy in place, it is also possible to read the new moves on food-for-oil as a cautious recognition that sanctions have been too brutal.

Meanwhile, in another part of the woods, the warrior-drummers are beating again. Kofi Annan's trip to Baghdad in February partially defused a crisis over the inspections. But the inspectors are again at boiling point.

Richard Butler, the Australian diplomat who heads the UN team, said in a weekend in-

terview that Iraq had had an opportunity over the past month to give "a full and complete declaration of past bio-weapons programmes and where they stand now... and they blew it". Butler seems to have little doubt what the effect will be when he reports to the UN later this week: "The last time we released a report like this, it triggered the crisis in the Gulf." William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, has made similarly tough comments within the last few days during a visit to a US air base in Turkey.

Saddam and his henchfolk clearly see the stormclouds gathering too. At the weekend, hundreds of thousands of Kalashnikov-wielding Iraqis marched through "Grand Festivities Square" in Baghdad in a six-hour parade against the US. In interviews with Reuters they said exactly what hyped-up and perhaps terrified people always say when some despotic regime marches them in its defence against "the aggressor". Their expressions of manically patriotic determination would have translated perfectly into propaganda from Albania under Hoxha or North Korea today.

So we won't drive Saddam from power. We know sanctions don't work and we sit around in London expressing unease about their human effects. On the other hand, we might bomb Baghdad a bit just to show how cross we are. We won't kill the tiger, and we cannot starve him. So let's jab a sharpened stick through the bars and see what happens.

It is a futile wreck of a policy, even if it came about for virtuous reasons – the result of a fastidious legalism that the world probably needs. It would be more moral and humane to be less legal – to send teams of assassins into Iraq day after day or, alternatively, to offer Saddam a secure island paradise and a mound of gold for the rest of his life in return for leaving Iraq.

But whatever we do, we should lift the sanctions. They are cruel and utterly pointless. They haven't harmed a hair of Saddam's fat moustache. Nor will trading with Iraq make him a more dangerous man – all history suggests the opposite. Like Galloway or leather him, he has a simple argument that needs to be heard above titillation or smears. He is telling truth to power. Meanwhile, aren't these sanctions The Most Odious Policy in Britain? If not, I'd like to hear what's worse.

Le BritPack est arrivé, but where have they got to?



ROSIE MILLARD
ON THE BUZZY WORLD OF ART

IT HAD to happen. Trendy conceptual art, once the sole preserve of scary-looking people stalking galleries in sunglasses, has become mainstream. Everyone knows about the BritPack. Damien Hirst put a pickled shark in the Royal Academy; thousands queued up to see it. Rachel Whiteread defied – or beautified – a terraced house in East London (depending on which way you look at it); it was reported in *The Sun*. Sarah Lucas's fried-egg sculptures have suffered the ultimate indignation by being water-proofed, squashed and slapped onto the covers of golfing umbrellas.

These artists are no longer an in-crowd to be smugly talked about over Islington dinner tables, but a celeb-pack discussed in the pages of *Hello!*. If you doubt it, tune into that haven of democracy, Classic FM. There you will come across an advert for Hamlet, which tells the sad story of Daisy the cow. Daisy takes to puffing on a Hamlet cigar after she finds out she is bound for Damien Hirst's studio and his electric saw. It's accessible enough to make the Secretary of State for Culture jump for joy.

Now, even the oozy arrangement between dealer and Armani-clad collector is to be blown apart when gems from the BritPack are to be sold in that most democratic of arenas, the auction room. Tomorrow, Christie's is hosting a 117-lot sale of Contemporary Art. Forget insider knowledge, sunglasses and this month's copy of *Parkett* (it's a trendy art magazine). You want a Damien Hirst spin painting?

Simply rock up to Christie's and wave your arm at the appropriate moment. This is an important development.

Contemporary art is normally considered too new to auction. Secondary sales are normally the preserve of art at least 50 years old. Yet Christie's is clearly confident that the BritPack has now achieved an independent market value. To hammer home the arrival of trendy art into the mainstream, it decided to hold its pre-sale view not in stuffy old Mayfair, but a vast warehouse in East London. A Damien Hirst drug cabinet jostled for conceptual eminence against a life-size igloo made out of glass and twigs. Guests noted down reserve prices as if in a car showroom, wandering nonchalantly past upside-down Baselitz paintings. Fibre-glass paving stones from the Boyle family, and a rude sculpture from the Chapman brothers. The youthfulness of the whole was underlined by the food, namely sushi for 800 on a vast revolving belt, and free bubbly.

But where were the Young British Artists who had inspired all this? Had they bot-footed along from their nearby garrets? Er, no. All were invited, but had elected to go to the Sadie Coles gallery off Regent Street, where a selection of bizarre photographs by Sarah Lucas and Angus Fairhurst were on display. So the stuffed shirts were in the East End while the revolutionaries were in the West End. Which just proves you can invent an art market but you can't invent a scene.

OF COURSE, stars hate turning up to events they are connected with. Take the Film Four Limited launch, which took place in an NCP car park on a night when it was raining stair-roads.

"Never mind!" said the Channel Four Press Person joyously. "It's all undercover! Take a golf buggy to the fourth floor." It's a vista which will probably never be revisited in the history of television.

Executives, directors, scriptwriters, and the odd journalist were perched aboard highly unstable, soaking wet buggies, and whisked up four giddy-ing carbon monoxide-impregnated floors at breakneck speed. And yes, people did fall off. Arriving, I staggered off my chariot and humped into the theatrical agent Janet Fielding. "There's no-one here," yelled Janet, although evidence suggested otherwise. "And the music's too loud. I want to network! It's impossible! There are no sofas."

Sofas? The party's in a car-park. Janet. Anyway, the food was quite good. And for celeb-spotters there was Mrs Merton, aka Caroline Armer. I was keen to meet her, since that day I had interviewed her prototype, Dame Edna Everage. On hearing that I had met the Dame, Mrs Merton was downcast. "She hates me," she said sadly. "I love her... but she hated me. Can't stand the competition. What did she say about me?"

I thought it was perhaps time I climbed back on the golf buggy.

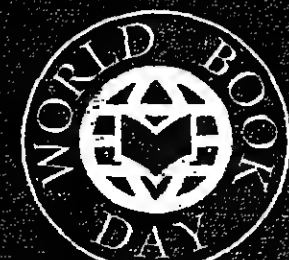
"Dame Edna?" I said. "She said that you were a sweet girl, that you did your best. And that no-one could ask you to do more than that." *La Belle Edna sans Merci*. Or something like that.

AND when it comes to luvvie competition, who can beat this? We all know that behind the air-kisses, the atmosphere can get a bit tense in the world of the musical; but the current rivalry between our two Knights of lyrical theatre has really taken off. Sir Andrew-nay, Lord-Lloyd Webber gives a charity birthday bash, and invites luminaries such as Antonio Banderas, Elaine Paige and, believe it or not, Donny Osmond, to sing his songs all night long at the Albert Hall. The night was a triumph, a magnificent mirror to Sir Andrew and his works. And John Major, the unlikely inventor of Cool Britannia, was in the audience.

Now we receive a press release from Sir Cameron, as in Mackintosh, as in the other major West End musical producer. "A Charity Gala Evening! Staged Highlights of Cameron Mackintosh's career!" In what looks like a naughty response to Sir Andrew's glittering parade, Sir Cameron has mustered the likes of Brian Blessed, Donald Sinden and Ned Sherrin to sing numbers from his productions. Oh, and members of his audience will include the Queen and Prince Philip. So there. Aspects of Love? I don't think so.

Rosie Millard is BBC arts correspondent.

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OUTLOOK
ON THE END OF
AN ERA FOR AN
AMERICAN
INVESTMENT BANK.
THE CLOSING STAGES
OF THE ARGOS
BATTLE. AND THE
SMALL PRINT BEHIND
THE THOMSON PERK

Why the partners will take the money and run

WHAT partners of Goldman Sachs should do and what they will do are different questions. One thing is for sure: in the interests of the firm they should not be voting to turn themselves from a partnership into a listed public company. That way is madness. In so doing, they would destroy the partnership culture and ethos which lies at the heart of the firm's success. A partnership in Goldman Sachs is one of the great modern-day symbols of personal and monetary achievement. A goal potentially open to all, it ensures a drive, ambition and cleverness few other people businesses have been able to mirror.

Other investment banks labour constantly and sometimes disastrously with the conflict in proprietary ownership between the interests of shareholders and high-earning employees. At Goldman Sachs there is no such conflict. At senior level they are one and the same thing; the spoils of the capital markets are for the benefit entirely of employees.

Worse, as a public company the firm might have to undergo some madcap and ultimately destructive mega-merger. Indeed this is the reason Jon Corzine, chief executive officer, gives for doing it - keeping up with the Joneses of Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley and Salomon, all of which have done a big deal of some sort over the past couple of years. This is the fashion right now, but is it the right way forward? As likely as not, these new financial behemoths will be unmanageable and 10 years down the line they will be seen to have failed. The growth business will be that of dismantling them.

None of this means the Goldman Sachs

partners won't do it. In fact, it is overwhelmingly likely they will. Here's why. Partners have voted on flotation half a dozen times before, but in the past the pro-flotation lobby has always failed. This is largely because relatively new partners - those of two to four years duration - have voted with the decent, honest stalwarts of Goldman Sachs, those who believe partnership is a privilege and honour, a stewardship to be passed like a baton down the generations. The moral argument here is that the firm's present value is the result of 130 years of history; by what right do the present partners run off with all those gains?

In the past, that moral argument has been supported by the economics. New partners generally have to borrow the capital required to buy into the firm and it has traditionally taken them many years of sharing in the partnership's profits to pay it back. It hasn't made sense for those in negative equity to vote for flotation. However, so spectacular have been the returns in recent years that even the most junior partners may be close to paying off their capital. Furthermore, the bull market has caused the value of that equity to rise spectacularly. Goldman Sachs may be worth perhaps as much as four times its \$6bn of capital. On that basis, Mr Corzine alone would be worth \$800m, so it's a no-brainer for him: stuff future generations.

But even the newest class of partner might be valued at \$60m apiece. Even at present inflated rates of return, it is going to take him/her many years to get to that sort of figure under the partnership structure of ownership. In the mean-

time there's the very real risk he might be fired. So it's a no-brainer for this class of partner too. The marzipan level of those who just failed to win partnership last time round - the so-called "managing directors lite" - are going to be none too pleased, but where else are these people going to get the \$5m to \$10m each in appeasement money the partnership plans for them? It may not be right for present partners to be selling future generations of Goldman Sachs employees down the river like this, but think about it. What would you do?

Argos deserves another chance

IT HAS been a long hard battle between GUS and Argos and all the signs are that GUS will win the day. The share prices tell us so and the stockbroking community is convinced that Lord Wolfson has victory in his sights. Even so, the vote may be closer than many suppose, and rightly so.

The case for GUS is straightforward enough. It is offering 65p in cash, a figure Argos shareholders might only have dreamt of a few months ago. Argos has new management which may look promising but is as yet untried. Moreover, any strategy dreamed up on the hoof under pressure from a bid is likely to be flawed.

But think back a little in stock market history. There are any number of precedents for suggested Argos should be given a crack at independence. It seemed like only yesterday that everyone was consigning Woolworths to the knacker's yard.

A tired format they said, up against strong competition. Profits have since doubled.

And WH Smith, another high street name being written off only 18 months ago, is slowly but surely on its way back. Argos may look tired now and yes, its major markets like toys, jewellery and electricals are under attack from the likes of Toys 'R' Us, Signet and Dixons. But then they said that about Woolies and the supermarkets in 1995.

The second point is that this is not a once in a lifetime opportunity for Argos shareholders. If Stuart Rose and his team mess up after being given a chance, another bidder will undoubtedly arrive. GUS may even return.

All of which makes this a tricky call for shareholders. And particularly so for Jim Cox, head of Schroders Investment Management, Argos's largest shareholder. With a different hat, Schroders is also Argos's main merchant bank adviser. Ten years ago there would not have been any question which way Mr Cox would swing - vote with the firm, old boy. Things are different now and it is just as possible Mr Cox would choose to demonstrate his independence by voting against the management. Investors should hack Argos, but they probably won't.

A clever ploy by Thomson

DID YOU know that Thomson is knocking 10 per cent off holiday prices for everyone who buys shares in next month's flotation? Get away, as they say in those

irritating Lunn Poly ads. The brain is rarely the muscle most actively used on a Thomson holiday and its Canadian owners must be hoping the same rule applies when investors fill in their share application forms.

At first glance, the proposition looks too good to be true, the product, in fact, of one too many sangrias. For the average family holiday costing £1,220, the perk is worth £122 - almost enough to pay for the parking at Gatwick and still have enough to buy a stuffed donkey. Put another way, if the flotation attracts half a million retail investors and the average shareholder takes the spouse plus kiddie away for a fortnight in the sun once a year, that means Thomson will be discounting the price of one in three holidays.

Like all travel brochures, however, it is worth examining the small print of the Thomson prospectus. Investors will have to apply for £500 worth of shares and then hold on to those shares to qualify for the discount. What's more, the reduction is only off the brochure price. If Thomson begins to feel the squeeze, it can simply raise brochure prices for those shareholders who have become a captive market and discount like mad for everyone else. Not that Thomson reckons it will be a money-loser, since the hole in question will be marketed direct, cutting out the travel agent and thereby recouping at least half the reduction in revenue.

Clever, eh? Since it is clever management investors should really be looking for a company, not perks. Thomson is obviously worth going for, but expect to get trampled in the rush.

Goldman floats \$5m sweeteners

By Lea Patterson

MORE THAN 200 middle managers at Goldman Sachs could each receive a "consolation prize" of up to \$5m (£3m) if plans to float the US investment bank are approved by its partnership in June, according to banking sources.

The windfalls would be an attempt to compensate the so-called "marzipan layer" of management, who would miss out on the chance to attain the financially lucrative status of partner if the bank were to decide on a flotation.

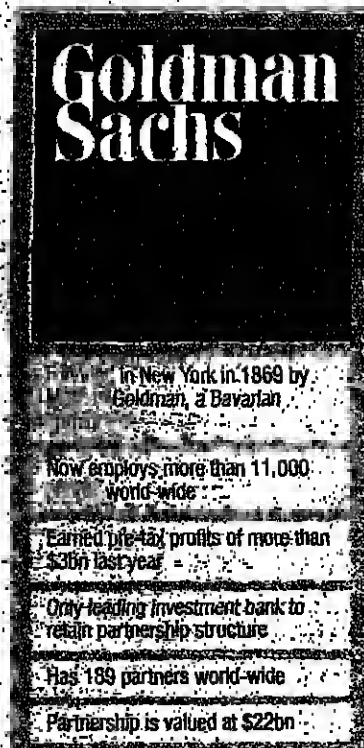
But the \$5m payouts earmarked for Goldman's middle managers - also known as managing directors - start to look rather measly when compared with the likely flotation windfalls for the bank's top brass.

Even Goldman's most junior partners stand to gain a minimum of \$60m each if the bank abandons its 130-year-old partnership structure. Jon Corzine, the bank's chairman and chief executive, is estimated to own 4 per cent of the bank's capital, and could net as much as \$800m from the float.

Around 40 of Goldman's partners are based in London, including Gavyn Davies, the leading UK economist who has close ties with the Labour Party, and Peter Sutherland, formerly an European trade commissioner and now chairman of Goldman Sachs International, the bank's European arm. A further 40 managing directors are based in the UK.

The likely scale of the payouts is believed to be one of the key reasons why the issue of flotation has been raised for the seventh time in the firm's history. The bank is expected to carry a price tag of £1.2bn - double the amount it was estimated to be worth the last time flotation was discussed in 1996.

At the time, Mr Corzine ruled out a flotation after informal discussions at the bank's annual meeting revealed a substantial majority of the bank's partners were against such a move. No formal vote was taken on the issue. Junior partners were said to be particularly opposed to any plans to go public, which would have left them relatively short-changed com-



pared with the bank's old hands. It was also feared flotation could destroy Goldman's corporate culture, and worries about the divisive effects of flotation could also scupper plans to go public this time round.

The partnership is revered by many at the bank. Goldman has said the structure "has created cohesion, loyalty and commitment in a notoriously volatile and competitive industry. The prospect of partnership provides a powerful incentive for the world's leading professionals to dedicate their careers to Goldman Sachs and the firm's clients".

Indeed, at the 1996 annual meeting there were reports of partners shedding tears as they described the "mystique" of the bank's partnership structure to the assembled audience.

So why do many sector watchers believe that, this time round, the partners could endorse flotation of the bank? First, Goldman Sachs has been

doing extraordinarily well - last year, the bank made a pre-tax profit of more than \$2bn, a jump of 16 per cent. This means the capital accounts of new partners are looking considerably more healthy than they did back in 1996.

Second, the last two years have seen a remarkable increase in bank valuations. When Goldman Sachs was mulling over the issue of flotation in 1996, analysts reckoned the bank could trade at a maximum of 1.5-times book value, putting a value on the partnership of up to \$10bn. Now, the recent surge in banking stocks has prompted analysts to put a price tag on the bank of three to four-times book value - around \$20bn.

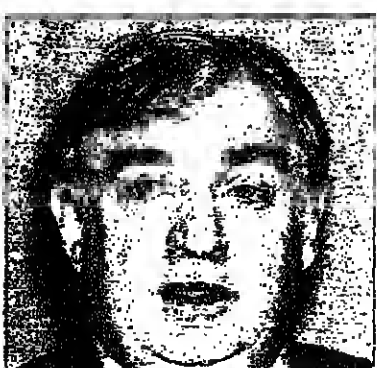
When taken together with the bumper earnings the bank has enjoyed of late, sources estimate even the most junior partners stand to net \$60m. Back in 1996, sources reckoned new partners stood to gain "just" \$10m and that Mr Corzine would net up to \$250m.

Third, the environment has changed markedly since 1996. Last year saw mergers between Morgan Stanley and Dean Witter as well as between Travelers and Salomon Brothers. More recently, there has been a series of banking mega-mergers in the US - including Citicorp's £100bn marriage with Travelers.

Although most analysts still class Goldman as "top tier" - last year it scooped a variety of prestigious awards, including the IFR's award for derivatives house of the year - there is a significant and growing minority who believe the bank is hanging on by the skin of its teeth. Flotation and possible merger would give Goldman, in the view of one analyst, "the critical mass it needs to compete with Salomon's and Morgan Stanley".

Goldman is trying to play down mounting speculation that its partnership will discuss - and possibly vote - on the issue of flotation during its annual meeting on 12 June. The firm has pointed out that the agenda for this meeting has not yet been finalised. "We continue to emphasise that there are no plans to go public," said a spokesperson.

Outlook, this page



Winners all: From top, Jon Corzine, John Thornton, Gavyn Davies and Peter Sutherland, partners in Goldman Sachs

Protest over ads merger proposal

By Peter Thal Larsen

THE London Borough of Islington has become the latest local authority to express concerns about the attempt by Decaux, the French outdoor advertising group, to take control of More Group, its UK-quoted rival.

More and Decaux are due to make presentations to the council today in a pitch to win a multi-million-pound contract to provide bus shelters.

The contract is held by LT-Adshel, a joint venture between More Group and London Transport. But the council decided to put the contract out to tender. Decaux is the only other bidder.

A spokesman said the council was very unhappy about the prospect of Decaux's £475m cash bid for More succeeding. The Office of Fair Trading is considering whether it should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

"We are very concerned about this," the spokesman said. "We ask for competitive tenders in order to get the best possible price. It's no good as a market tester if there's only one company in it."

A combination of Decaux and More Group would control more than 90 per cent of the UK market for street furniture - the bus shelters, street lavatories and waste paper baskets normally supplied under contract. Decaux and More usually provide these for a reduced price and make their revenues by selling advertising on them.

Matalan sales on track ahead of £200m float

MATALAN, the out of town clothing retailer seeking a £200m stock market flotation, published its pathfinder prospectus yesterday showing that trading in the first quarter was "on budget" and that profitability was ahead of expectations. The group, which specialises in low priced own-label and branded clothing sold sales over Easter were particularly encouraging. Like-for-like sales rose by 7 per cent last year and operating profits rose from £7.5m to £14m. The full prospectus will be issued on 7 May. Investment column, page 24

Travelers profits soar

TRAVELERS, the financial services group which recently announced a mammoth \$120bn merger with banking group Citicorp yesterday announced record first quarter earnings. The group's net income for the three months to 31 March was \$1,043bn, up from \$815.1m the previous year. The figures were boosted by a record from the insurance division and a 22 per cent increase in earnings from Salomon Smith Barney, the investment bank.

Millennium bug warning

ONE IN SIX British companies will miss the deadline for converting their computer systems to deal with the millennium timebomb, a new research report claims today. The report, by the computer services group Cap Gemini, puts the cost of fixing the Year 2000 problem at \$717bn for Europe and the US but says that to date only \$199bn of this has been spent. The UK has spent just over a quarter of its \$50bn millennium bug budget and the US 31 per cent. The least well prepared country is Germany, where 74 per cent of organisations could miss the deadline. In contrast only 1 per cent of French organisations are likely to fail to act in time.

Pay deals down, says CBI

PAY settlements declined slightly in March, according to a Confederation of British Industry survey yesterday. In manufacturing, settlements averaged 3.7 per cent in the three months to March, down a shade from 3.8 per cent in the three months to December. In services the corresponding figures were 4.1 per cent and 4.4 per cent. The survey joins other anecdotal evidence suggesting that pay pressures are no longer on the increase, ahead of official earnings figures published tomorrow.

Fewer men working

FEWER men are in work today than at the start of the jobs recovery in 1993, according to a report published today. "Economic inactivity" amongst men of working age has soared from 1.8 million in 1979 to 2.3 million last year - a jump from 5 per cent to 13 per cent. The Employment Policy Institute says the switch from the claimant count measure of unemployment to an international measure based on a survey of those looking for work, to be introduced in official figures due tomorrow, will still miss all these hidden jobless.

IMI businesses sold

IMI, the engineering group, yesterday sold its water-heating businesses to Newmond, the privately owned building products group, for £20m. The businesses include brand names including Range, Santon, Rycroft, Andrews Water Heaters and Drch in the UK. Newmond was a management buyout out from fire and security group Williams in 1996.

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SHUTTLE
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Wickes set to reveal blueprint for profits

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

COMPANIES do not under normal circumstances entertain analysts unless they have a particularly cheerful tale to unfold. So why should Wickes, with a calendar year end, decide to meet the City's retail experts on Friday?

After all, the company, with a sad history of disastrous black holes, is due to make a trading statement to shareholders, tomorrow. All the signs are the long years' of when losses of more than £300m were incurred, have been put firmly behind the do-it-yourself practitioner.

There is little doubt tomorrow's trading review will be encouraging and, on Friday, analysts will enjoy an upbeat investment presentation, although the theme will be an unremarkable new concept.

It seems Wickes, although sticking to its builders base, is edging nearer to challenging the more do-it-yourself approach of B&Q and Homebase.

Last year Wickes suffered a £6.5m loss although its underlying domestic operation made profits of more than £14m. The consensus for this year's out-turn would appear to be overall profits of £22m.

Wickes shares edged ahead 1p to 340.5p. A far cry from the disaster days when they were suspended after a £30m profit over-statement, prompting the price to drop to 133.5p from a 858.5p peak.

The rest of the stock market managed to end its post Easter blues with Footsie, at one time up 71.1 points, ending with a 31.9 gain at 5,954.1. Supporting indices made modest headway.

EMI, the showbiz group, led the blue chip advance although the rally was due to the feeling the shares were over sold rather than any expectations of corporate action. The shares, down 15 per cent in the past month, gained 24.5p to 490p. Last year they were 648p.

Tesco, figures today, rose 15p to 597p and DFS Furniture, reporting tomorrow, pulled out of its spin to gain 25.5p to 329p.

But JJB Sport, also reporting tomorrow, remained deep in the mire. The shares fell 36.5p to 502.5p after touching 499p.

Figures are expected to be encouraging. It is trading in the current year, which perplexes the market. It should be good. After all, the summertime World Cup should represent a bonanza for the likes of JJB. But many in the market feel JJB will be forced to admit to a dramatic current year slowdown in sales as, despite the World Cup, the sports retailing sector encounters belated, but possibly justified, consumer resistance.

British Biotech ended 2.5p lower at 56.5p. The shares were at one time down 9p. Sentiment was ruffled by confirmation of the dismissal of Andrew Miller, head of re-

search, and a US Securities investigation.

Stories of developments at Allied Domecq once again went the rounds. This time it was a Japanese swallow of its pub estate. Allied has now had a year to get used to the idea of the power of Diageo, the Grand Metropolitan /Guinness creation, and the market feels it must be near

to completing its revised strategy.

A pub sell-off looks unlikely... a spirits deal with an international group such as Seagram seems a more realistic possibility. The shares rose 11.5p to 621.5p.

Highland Distillers, the Famous Grouse Scotch whisky group closely related to Remy Cointreau of France, has started to intrigue. The shares rose 12p to 308.5p, up from 261p last month. A closer link with the French group is always likely. But Highland is, thanks to its associate companies, its own master and many are taking the view the group could achieve significant benefits in the now dominated Diageo spirits world.

Home Counties Newspapers jumped 107.5p to 552.5p after a bid battle broke out between Southwinds, offering 575p, and Johnston Press, which has to contend with a Monopolies and Mergers Commission referral.

Thorn continued to reflect bid hopes, gaining 8.5p to 213.5p. A strike by the reclusive Barclay twins at around 225p remains the market's favourite outcome. Countdown, the chemical group, ended vague hopes of a repeat of the encounter with Imperial Chemical Industries, by agreeing a £1.8bn offer from the Dutch Akzo Nobel. The shares rose 7.5p to 450p.

Petrol retailer Savelup on 12.5p to 102.5p although it said it had no knowledge of any alleged mystery bidder.

Financial shares continued to suffer from lack of corporate action. Perpetual, the fund manager, fell another 142.5p to 3,885p on chairman Martyn Arbib's declaration he has no intention of substantially reducing his shareholding.

Arm, the computer chip maker, followed Friday's eventual launch with a 45p gain to 865p in its when-issued form.

Share Price Spotlight



JJB Sports

TAKING STOCK

CORPORATE action could be about to erupt at Queens Moat Houses, the heavily indebted hotel group. The shares, which have attracted increasingly positive analyst comment, climbed 1.75p to 28.25p, highest for around two years. QMH has negative net worth - around £140m. So a reconstruction is essential. With trading improving the dominant banks are likely to seek to put the company on a more realistic footing.

MICE (Museum Interiors Conferences and Exhibitions) rose 0.75p to 17.25p, just below its peak, after a 39p profit gain to £1.7m. Around £2.5m is the forecast for this year from stockbroker Beeson Gregory. It is on the look out for suitable buys and an overseas deal, taking advantage of the pound, is in the pipeline.

ENNEX International rose 1.25p to 31.25p. It has signed a joint venture for a zinc development in Morocco. The company is already deep into zinc in the former USSR.

High Low Stock Price Chg Yld P/E Code

Alcoholic Beverages

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
49.40	48.00	Adn Beer	48.50	+0.50	2.1	10.0	001
52.00	50.00	Beck's	51.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	002
62.00	60.00	Carlsberg	61.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	003
102.00	100.00	Heineken	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	004
102.00	100.00	Heineken	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	005
102.00	100.00	Heineken	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	006

Banks, Finance

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	007
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	008
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	009

Breweries Pubs & Restaurants

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
102.00	100.00	Beck's	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	010
102.00	100.00	Beck's	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	011
102.00	100.00	Beck's	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	012

Building Construction

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	013
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	014
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	015

Chemicals

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	016
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	017
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	018

Electronics

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	019
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	020
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	021

Engineering

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	022
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	023
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	024

Food

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	025
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	026
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	027

Health Care

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	028
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	029
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	030

Household Goods

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	031
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	032
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	033

Investment Trusts

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	034
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	035
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	036

Media

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	037
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	038
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	039

Pharmaceuticals

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	040
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	041
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	042

High Low Stock Price Chg Yld P/E Code

Alcoholic Beverages

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
49.40	48.00	Adn Beer	48.50	+0.50	2.1	10.0	001
52.00	50.00	Beck's	51.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	002
62.00	60.00	Carlsberg	61.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	003
102.00	100.00	Heineken	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	004
102.00	100.00	Heineken	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	005
102.00	100.00	Heineken	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	006

Banks, Finance

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	007
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	008
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	009

Breweries Pubs & Restaurants

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
102.00	100.00	Beck's	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	010
102.00	100.00	Beck's	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	011
102.00	100.00	Beck's	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	012

Building Construction

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	013
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	014
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	015

Chemicals

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	016
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	017
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	018

Electronics

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	019
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	020
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	021

Engineering

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	022
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	023
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	024

Food

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	025
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	026
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	027

Health Care

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	028
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	029
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	030

Household Goods

High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	031
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	032
102.00	100.00	Barclays	101.00	+1.00	1.5	10.0	033

Investment Trusts

Dean Foods	37.50	+1.00					24
Elanco	82.50		2.7	16.9		204	Ch
Essex	145.00	-3.50	1.6	2.9		209	
Exxon	160.00	-1.50	2.9	11.0		208	
First	8.50	-0.25					
Food Wholes	162.50		2.4	9.5		008	
FPL	87.50		3.4	2.1		006	St
GE	98.00	-0.50	5.7	9.7		025	High
Glyco	288.50	+7.50	5.7	16.4		020	
Harbor Mack	140.50	+1.00	5.0	8.3		2534	
Hill Egg	226.00		4.4	16.8		2252	Ind
Holste	81.50	-0.50	1.6	11.1		2251	Ind
Hompson	67.50		4.8	14.4		3867	Ind
IGM-S&P	67.50		8.9	22.7		374	Ind
Hunting	24.00			7.3		244	
		+7.50	6.3	1.3		244	

How will the 21st century cope when savers become spenders?



HAMISH MCRAE
ON WHAT
HAPPENS WHEN
THE BABY
BOOMERS START
DRAWING
THEIR PENSIONS

NEW century, new investment strategy? People make jokes about the short-termism of financial markets; for example that in most dealers' view the long term means after lunch. But the proximity of the millennium and the neat symmetry of this century in investment terms has provoked a lot of thought about the principles of investment in the next one.

The symmetry is perhaps the best starting point. One hundred years ago there was virtually no inflation, a state to which the world is only just returning now. There were enormous cross-border flows in portfolio investment, just as now. Securities markets, rather than banks, were particularly important as a form of financial intermediation, again just as at present.

Unsurprisingly, people have started to wonder whether some of the guiding principles of investment a century ago, in particular that equities should deliver a higher dividend yield than the interest available on bonds, should start to apply again. This would only apply if the next century to see a long period of price stability or even falling prices, but that does not seem a clear possibility in a way that it didn't even three or four years ago.

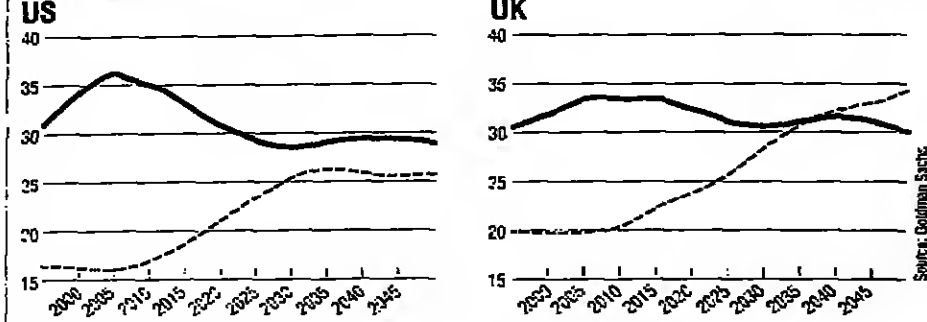
There is, however, another force which will dominate investment patterns during the next century about which we can be even more confident than we can about the end of inflation. This is the impact of demography on the pattern of saving and dis-saving – the subject of a new research paper from Goldman Sachs: "Asset Management in the 21st century: New Rules, New Game".

The big idea here is that an ageing population will turn the present big group of people saving for their retirement into dis-savers, drawing down their pensions. This shift of the post-war baby boomers from savers to spenders is a phenomenon that many people are vaguely aware of, but I have not seen a systematic examination yet of the numbers involved.

Goldman classifies the age

Savers and dis-savers

1995 to 2050, %



group of 40 to 60 as prime savers and the over 65 as prime dis-savers. They then show how the proportion of these are changing in a series of different countries. The results for the US and UK are shown here. The US figures are interesting in that the peak of the prime savers is not reached until 2008, while the peak of the prime dis-savers comes in 2037. But at least the lines do not cross.

In the UK there is a plateau in the proportion of prime savers from 2006 to about 2016, but the more notable feature of the graph is of course the fact that about the year 2036 the number of dis-savers overtakes the savers.

Other things being equal (and of course we know that they are not) this would suggest a continuing flood of funds into all sorts of assets for the first quarter of the next century, and then a gradual sucking out of funds for the second quarter.

Goldman sees this in terms of the implications for the financial services industry. For example it argues that savers will become more and more demanding; that there will be greater emphasis on the branding of pension and other savings products; that there will be consolidation of the pensions industry; and that in Japan a more vital and open financial services industry will be created.

I don't disagree with any of this, but it seems to me that there are two other big influences on the whole investment game which demand thought. The first is the influence that

these demographic trends will have on asset prices and the return on assets; the second, the extent to which behaviour will change once it becomes clear the extent to which demographic shifts are altering society.

On the first, the general proposition must surely be that we will have another generation of generally strong asset prices and a tendency for returns on assets to decline. There are only a limited number of investment opportunities in the world. Of course anyone can think up projects which cost money, but they have to deliver a reasonable real rate of return. The flood of money from the generation of prime savers will tend to drive up all asset prices, but it will be the same token to end the return on those assets. Company X does not make any higher profits because its shares have been bid up by hungry purchasers. If dividends stay the same and the share price rises they do not have to have an A level in maths to realise that the return on the shares will fall. The same will happen to the return on bonds.

On the other hand, a plentiful supply of savings will tend to encourage world growth. It will be possible to get projects financed: it will be possible to raise funds for venture capital ideas. For another couple of decades the motor of economic growth, a solid supply of savings, will continue to power the world economy. Now that does not mean that in the short-term there will not be sharp falls in asset prices.

There will be lots of bumps on the way. But it does create a window of opportunity to prepare for the leaner times to come. While it may seem ridiculous to worry about the shortage of savings in the year 2040, anyone starting out now on a career should be aware that it is precisely when they will be starting to draw their pensions.

Or will they? Whenever you see a graph like that one on the right you have to question the presumption behind it. The numbers will be right enough. I expect birth rates to creep upwards over the next two decades and therefore the number of 40 to 60-year-olds not to fall quite so much, but it is hard to quarrel with the line for the over-65s. Barring some dreadful catastrophe, the army of the aged will carry growing.

But will these people still be savers and dis-savers? Maybe the next generation of retirees will not retire abruptly at 60 or 65, but carry on working into their seventies. Maybe they will not be dis-savers at all. Maybe inheritance and income tax structures will be changed to keep older people in work. Maybe the whole concept of a state-supported retirement age – effectively an invention of Bismarck, for heaven's sake – will be dumped.

Meanwhile, the message is "keep saving", and if people heed that, the great flood of liquidity now evident will presumably carry on flowing for another couple of decades. If so, the growing problem of where to park the cash will only get more demanding.

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

JOHN WILLCOCK



THE STORY so far. A nasty local wrangle has developed over the five-a-side football pitch Noel Gallagher (I gather he is a pop star M'lud) has built behind his £2m country mansion in Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire. After drinking rumours he would buy a seat on the board of his club, Man City, Gallagher decided he'd build his own pitch, complete with floodlights, so Liam, Bonehead and friends could celebrate the World Cup into the night.

In paroxysms of anger, wealthy neighbours have written three letters of bitter complaint to Chalfont District Council. They claim Gallagher's plan for six floodlights, each towering 8 metres above the pitch, will be unsightly and disturbing. The letters allege they will "give the impression of alien urbanisation and visual intrusion in the landscape". What's more, they may be illegal in an area of outstanding natural beauty, the letters say.

So just who are these spoilt sport neighbours? Just next door, sharing road access with the Oasis star, is none other than Sir Richard Sykes, chief executive of Glaxo Wellcome, the pharmaceuticals giant. But no, surely not. Either way, I think we should be told. If all else fails he can always turn up the sound on Oasis's *Don't Look Back in Anger*, which at one point goes: "Don't you know you might find/ A better place to play?"

STICKING with footy, things could get personal at the City Ground in Nottingham next Sunday when Nottingham Forest take on Reading. The match is a crunch decider in the Nationwide First Division. If Forest win they are almost certain to go up to the Premiership, condemning Reading to Division Three in the process.

This could make the post-match drinks a bit tense in the director's box afterwards. The reason is that Phil Sagar, the former Blenheim Exhibitions chief who now runs Forest and John Majewski, Reading's chairman and millionaire publisher, live in the same street in Pangbourne, Berks. I am told they are unlikely to be sharing a car on the way home.

THE BBC's top dogs are not normally known

for their flamboyance – but here's an exception. The corporation's commercial arm, BBC Worldwide, has hired a top BT man with a thespian bent to be its managing director. Rupert Gavin, who until 1 July is BT's MD of communications, will be seeking to boost the £354m in revenues enjoyed by the Beeb's sales abroad. Mr Gavin certainly manages to juggle the jobs. The BBC boasts that he moonlights as a "successful commercial songwriter" – though it is unable to say what he has written. No matter, Mr Gavin has proven dramatic credentials as the owner of a theatre company called West End Theatre Productions. The company recently won an Olivier Award for entertainment for one of its latest productions, called *Snow Show*.

Determined not to be outdone, BT has bagged the chief of Coca-Cola. Neville Isdell, chairman and chief executive designate, will become a non-executive director on the board of the telecoms giant. Helen Alexander, chief executive of The Economist Group since January last year, will also be a noddy.

NEWS arrives from Hong Kong of a murky bribes-for-loans trial involving a former top dog at Hong Kong Shanghai Bank. After wrestling for five years to have the defendant extradited from Britain, Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption is prosecuting the former chief executive of HSBC's merchant banking arm, which was known until 1995 as Wardley Ltd.

The banker was discovered in Britain in 1993, more than 10 years after the alleged offences. He is charged with bribing between October 1980 and June 1982 in return for granting credit to the Eda and Carian groups of companies. According to the prosecution, the defendant took bribes worth HK\$31.95m (over £2.5m) from George Tan, head of the Carian Group, which became Hong Kong's largest ever bankruptcy case in 1985. Mr Tan, now 63, is expected to be a key witness against the defendant. The prosecution has prepared 50 boxes of files and documents and the trial is expected to last for months.

The banker fought extradition "every inch of the way", according to the prosecution. The defence claims he fears execution. The banker has been given bail, but his passport has been impounded. His rather unfortunate name? Ewan Lamer.

AT HOME The men responsible for those ugly coloured jackets that fill City streets at lunchtime, the hoard of London's futures and options exchange, have locked themselves away in a desperate bid to resolve their own futures. The men are the directors of Life, which has been besieged by criticism after losing business to a rival bourse in Frankfurt, Deutsche Terminbörse, which has got into electronic trading. The board has already decided to shrink itself from 24 to 18 posts, and directors will be disqualified if they become members of the exchange. The board have now cloistered themselves for two days at a hotel in a secret location in London to decide whether the exchange should become a public company. Good luck boys.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Sterling	1 month	3 month
UK	100.00		
Australia	2.52/4	2.52/5	2.52/5
Austria	21.24	21.24	21.24
Belgium	23.29	23.29	23.29
Canada	2.39/27	2.39/27	2.39/27
Denmark	11.50/4	11.50/4	11.50/4
ECU	1.25/25	1.25/25	1.25/25
Finland	5.94/3	5.94/3	5.94/3
France	6.55/5	6.55/5	6.55/5
Germany	3.06/2	3.06/2	3.06/2
Greece	202.2/2	202.2/2	202.2/2
Hong Kong	7.75/5	7.75/5	7.75/5
India	47.8/8	47.8/8	47.8/8
Italy	2.06/1	2.06/1	2.06/1
Japan	160.0/0	160.0/0	160.0/0
Malaysia	3.83/27	3.83/27	3.83/27
Mexico	11.91	11.91	11.91
Netherlands	3.36/0	3.36/0	3.36/0
New Zealand	3.02/4	3.02/4	3.02/4
Norway	4.76/0	4.76/0	4.76/0
Portugal	206.4/4	206.4/4	206.4/4
Saudi Arabia	6.27/8	6.27/8	6.27/8
Singapore	2.06/2	2.06/2	2.06/2
South Africa	6.50/0	6.50/0	6.50/0
Spain	2.26/1	2.26/1	2.26/1
Sweden	4.63/1	4.63/1	4.63/1
Switzerland	2.06/2	2.06/2	2.06/2
US	1.67/0	1.67/0	1.67/0

Other Spot Rates

Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	167/0	167/0
Brazil	1.95/3	1.95/3
Canada	1.37/6	1.37/6
Czech Rep	56.4/1	56.4/1
Greece	5.75/2	5.75/2
Hungary	353/3	353/3
India	47.8/8	47.8/8
Indonesia	1.54/1	1.54/1
Israel	1.81/1	1.81/1
Japan	160.0/0	160.0/0
Nigeria	142/1	142/1

Interest Rates

UK	Germany	US	Japan
Base	Discount	Prime	Discount
Intervention	7.25%	4.50%	8.50%
France	Discount	Discount	Discount
Canada	2.50%	Fed Funds	5.44%
Italy	Prime	6.50%	Central
Discount	5.50%	3.01	Switzerland
Netherlands	Discount	Sweden	Discount
Spain	Discount	Repo(Ave)	1.35%
Switzerland	Discount	3.50%	Lombard
			1.13%

Bond Yields											
	Australia	3 mth	chg	1 yr	chg	2 yr	chg	5 yr	chg	10 yr	chg
Country	4.63	-		4.80	0.06	4.99	0.07	5.40	0.06	5.73	0.08
USA	4.27	-		4.01	0.08	4.02	0.29	4.59	0.06	5.01	0.03
Belgium	5.19	-		5.28	0.13	5.34	0.03	5.34	0.01	5.35	0.05
France	4.70	0.02		4.27	0.06	4.26	0.06	4.68	0.00	5.00	0.02
Italy	5.00	0.00		3.76	-	4.08	0.04	4.80	0.00	4.95	0.04
Denmark	4.35	0.00		3.84	0.00	4.58	0.03	5.02	0.02	4.78	0.01
Sweden	5.14	0.00		4.64	0.02	4.96	0.02	4.80	0.02	5.12	0.02
Japan	5.01	0.01		0.50	0.00	0.57	0.01	1.11	-0.02	1.18	-0.02
Switzerland	5.65	0.01		4.61	0.01	4.75	0.02	4.57	0.02	4.83	0.05
Canada	4.28	0.00		4.05	0.00	4.37	0.00	4.74	0.04	5.04	0.05
Finland	4.37	0.00		4.63	0.00	4.79	0.00	4.93	0.01	5.15	0.00
Netherlands	4.44	0.03		1.79	-0.02	1.96	0.02	2.42	0.01	3.10	0.08
UK	4.93	0.01		7.52	0.01	6.76	0.00	6.15	0.01	5.78	0.00
France	4.93	0.01		5.70	-0.01	5.55	0.05	5.52	0.06	5.54	0.05

Money Market Rates										
	Overnight	1 week	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year				
Base Bid	Offer	Bid	Offer	Bid	Offer	Bid	Offer			
Reserve Bids										
LIBOR										
Commercial Depos	7.19	7.39	7.16	7.31	7.21	7.38	7.41	7.47	7.41	7.47
Banking Depos	8.25	8.31	7.28	7.34	7.41	7.47	7.44	7.50	7.44	7.50
Banking Bank Bids										
Spotting CDs	7.26	7.38	7.18	7.25	7.38	7.45				
Overnight CDs	7.26	7.39	7.18	7.25	7.33	7.38	7.33	7.38	7.33	7.38
3 months	8.65	8.75								
6 months										
1 year										
ECU Deposits										
				4.16	4.26	4.16	4.28	4.16	4.28	

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Bond Yields

Country	3 month	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr
Australia	4.63	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
Belgium	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75
Canada	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75
France	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75
Germany	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75
Italy	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75
Japan	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.50
Netherlands	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Sweden	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Switzerland	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

Money Market Rates

Overnight	1 week	1 month	3 month	6 month	1 year
7.25	7.25	7.25	7.25	7.25	7.25

Liffe Financial Futures

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Open
Long Call	Jun-98	10.25	10.25	10.25
Short Put	Jun-98	10.25	10.25	10.25
Long Put	Jun-98	10.25	10.25	10.25
Short Call	Jun-98	10.25	10.25	10.25

Liffe FTSE 100 Index Option

Series	Call	Put	Call	Put
FTSE 100	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25
FTSE 100	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25
FTSE 100	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25

Commodity Indices

Index	Value	Change
Oil	10.25	0.00
Gold	10.25	0.00

Industrial Metals

Aluminum	Copper	Lead	Nickel	Platinum	Silver	Zinc
10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25
10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25

Precious Metals

Gold	Silver	Platinum	Palladium
10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25
10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25

Agricultural

Wheat	Corn	Soybeans
10.25	10.25	10.25
10.25	10.25	10.25

A feast of honours for the food industry

Over 100 firms from distillers to vets are recognised today. By Roger Trapp

THE STRONG POUND may be playing havoc with many British companies seeking to sell products and services overseas, but others continue to live up to the UK's exporting heritage. And today 115 of these companies - from a wide range of sectors and geographical locations - receive Queen's Awards for Export Achievement.

The awards - made to mark the Queen's personal birthday - are held in conjunction with those for technological and environmental achievement, which means 133 are being presented this year - a total roughly in line with the past two years but significantly lower than the figures for earlier years.

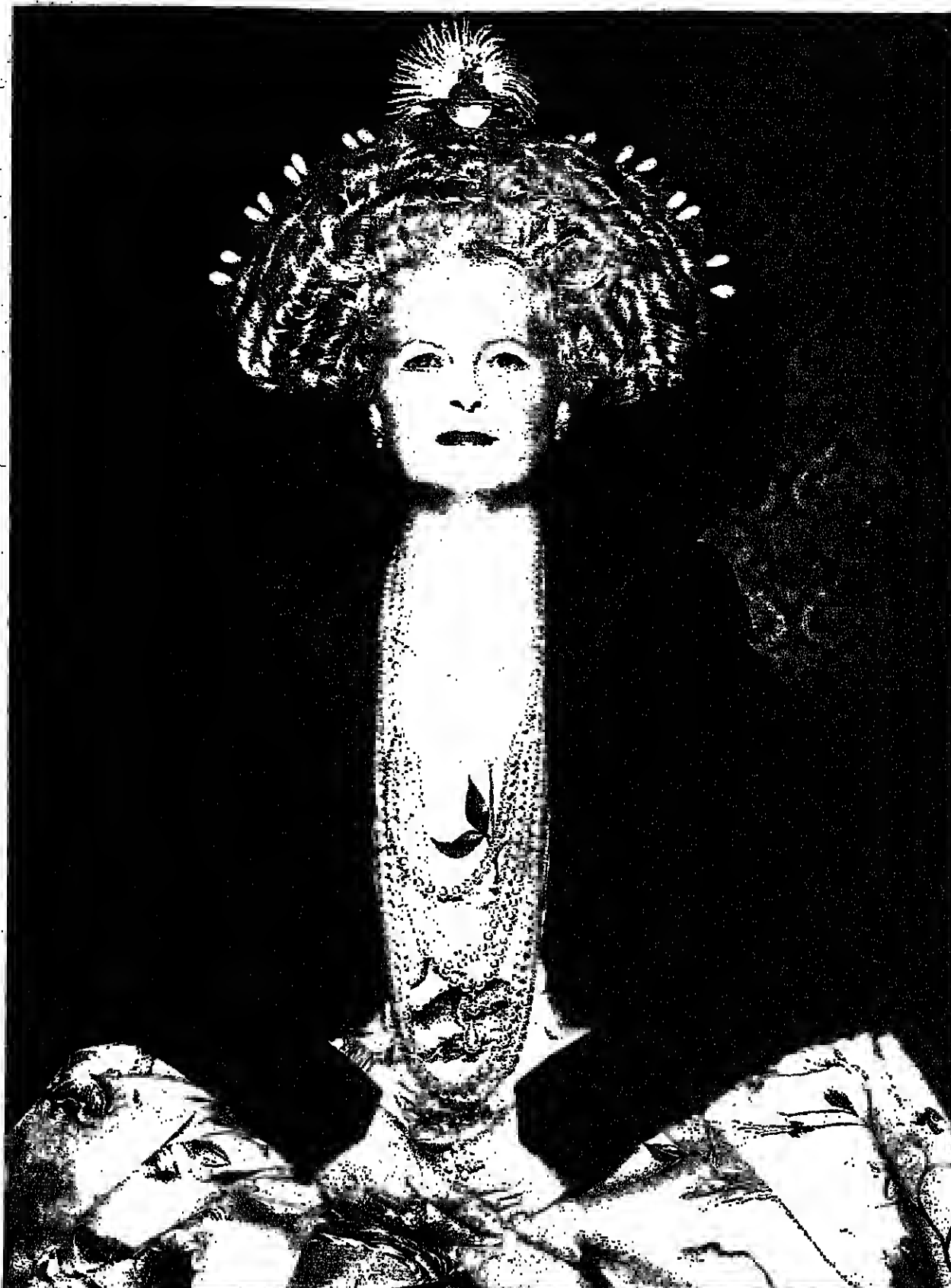
Perhaps in keeping with Britain's improving culinary reputation, no fewer than 10 of the export awards have gone to food and drink concerns, including such renowned names as Scotch whisky producers Macallan Distillers, William Grant & Sons and Morrison Bowmore Distillers, the Glasgow-based operation owned by Suntory of Japan, cider maker HP Bulmer and WW Bellamy, a Manchester-based bakery that is selling muffins, crumpets and pancakes to France and other mainland European countries through introducing techniques to improve the products' shelf life.

Britain's status as a seat of learning is also given credit with awards to Cussons Technology, a Manchester-based company that specialises in educational technology; the Universities of England Consortium for International Activities (Unecia), which represents a group of 10 north of England and Midlands universities and helps them to transfer around the world consultancy services, technical assistance and research and training in such areas as education, health and social and economic development, and the Cambridge University Press, which - besides being the oldest winner of an award this year - exports academic and educational books to almost every country in the world.

However, more mainstream industries are also represented. Rover Group, now owned by BMW of Germany, received a first export award despite a history going back to the early days of the motor industry, while aero-engine maker Rolls-Royce has collected an award in each of the export, technological and environmental achievement categories, largely for work connected with the development of the Trent engines being used to power the latest generation of twin-jet aircraft: the Airbus A330 and the Boeing 777. Aston Martin Lagonda, now owned by Ford Motor Company of the United States, follows up the export award won in 1984 with a prize recognising the quadrupling of exports in the past three years.

Meanwhile, those seeking to emphasise Britain's reputation in the "cooler" industries, such as fashion and information technology, will find much to encourage them. As well as a first award for Vivienne Westwood, the well-known fashion designer, there are awards for ADC Metrics, a US-owned company that provides software for mobile telecommunications market and Cambridge Animation Systems, a producer of software for the creation of animated cartoons.

The list of 115 export, 14 technological and four environmental achievement award winners also includes plenty of unusual businesses such as Abbeyvet Export, which in five years has become Britain's largest international veterinary products wholesaler. Special prizes for, ingenuity, though, should go to Nauticallia, a west London-based company that has spent the past two decades designing and selling artefacts made from brass, teak, cork and rope to reflect the British maritime tradition, while Ward Shoes of Sheffield has found a market overseas for end-of-the-range shoes.



At the cutting edge: The designer Vivienne Westwood won an award for her firm's export achievements

Old ones are the best for export growth

By Lynne Curry

THE carpet company which commissioned Vivienne Westwood to design haute couture in Wilson and Axminster has won its first Queen's Award for Exports in its 215-year history. Axminster was under the 6th generation of the Brinton family (the eighth is now expected) when Ms Westwood was asked to give a new image to the then rather mundane business of flooring in 1993.

Since then, Brintons' export business has boomed by 50 per cent and - probably a coincidence - Ms Westwood's company, Vivienne Westwood Ltd, has also won its first export award at the same time.

Although Ms Westwood's company is in only its sixth year of trading, her longevity in her trade helps to nail the fact that Britain's success is largely due to young, hip, thrashing companies gathering under the "Cool Britannia" banner. A quarter of all the 115 companies which have won export awards are 50 years old and older, and a third are 30 or more years old. They may be old, but when it comes to spotting a niche or capitalising on a good name, they need no instruction in new tricks.

Sixty-four-year-old bakers WW Bellamy, of Trafford Park, Manchester, is exporting pancakes and other delicacies to France, while Corney & Barrow Broker Services, a subsidiary of the company founded in 1780, is now re-exporting fine and rare wines, mostly from France and many which have never left its cellars, back to countries including France.

Brintons, which started exporting in 1855, employs 2,000 people and occupies the wool-producing capacity of 3.3 million sheep every year, having 6.6 million kg spun into yarn at its factory in Telford. This makes it the biggest user of British wool, taking 12 per cent of all the country's sheep can provide. Last year it won the largest contract for woven carpet ever awarded, fitting out the new Hong Kong Airport with 35 acres of carpet, designed by [Norman] Foster Associates, at an overall cost of £65m. The increasing tendency of business to want carpet commissioned to its own design has accounted

ed for the huge export growth.

"The market growth is due to our ability to handle custom design and service," said Brintons' spokesman Michael Hardman, who has been with the company for 34 years. "We have 1,500 design inquiries a month from hotels, chains, casinos and airports, which our designers work on. Half our production is now custom-designed carpet and the design is much more sophisticated: the old motor-smash designs of the Sixties have gone and the trend now is the geometric designs, with small motifs."

Patterns are also reappearing in the home market (which is currently 75 per cent plain) and there is more emphasis on the "finescape" as a dominant feature in rooms. Plain borders and inset rugs are booming, helping Brintons turnover to nearly £100m.

A foray into the market for blankets to keep air passengers warm began as just another commercial avenue for John Horsfall & Sons, which has been making blankets in Greetland, Halifax, for 135 years. John Benson, then managing director of the family-owned company (now run by the 5th generation, his son Peter), had been unaware that the demand for bed blankets would plummet under assault from the duvet. But in under 20 years, airlines have become John Horsfall's leading customers, taking more than 90 per cent of the production run.

BA is the company's biggest customer, but its export customers include American Airlines, Singapore Airlines, Cathay Pacific and Qantas, and it supplies 50 airlines in all.

The oldest concern to win an award is Cambridge University Press (established 1534). The Dudson Group of Stoke-on-Trent celebrates its 200th birthday at the millennium and is still supplying vitrified and fine china tableware. Griffin-Woodhouse, makers of mooring and fendering systems, is aged 138 and winning its third export award at Cradley Heath, in the West Midlands. Scottish & Newcastle Brewery is 249, Bulmers Cider 111, Cussons Technology (educational technology connected with internal combustion engines) 126, Macallan Distillers 155 and William Grant & Sons 101.

Combining to conquer technology markets

THE IMPORTANCE of collaboration in achieving technological breakthroughs is demonstrated by the fact four of the 14 companies recognised in the technological achievement awards are partners.

BBC Research and Development gained an award with Soell & Wilcox for the development of a device that overcomes judder and "soft" pictures while the Institute of Laryngology and Otology at University College London and Otodynamics of Hatfield, Hertfordshire teamed up to develop the "echo" test that detects hearing deficiencies in babies. The test works by emitting a sound into the ear and a healthy baby sends out a distorted copy of the sound while a deaf baby does not.

Another medical development won the Image Division of Nycomed Amersham an award for Myoview, which provides information of the working of the heart muscle. Myoview is a pharmaceutical formulation containing (tetra)fosmin, a non-radioactive material with a long shelf-life that enables heart tests to be conducted in one rather than the usual two days.

Satellites also accounted for two awards, with Advent Communications of Buckinghamshire winning for the development of a motorised mobile satellite news-gathering terminal, while Surrey Satellite Technology of Surrey University's Surrey Space Centre gained an award for the development of modular satellites that are low in cost and weight.

Technology also features strongly in the environmental achievement awards. Energy Technology & Control is rewarded for a system that enables energy conservation and the reduction of harmful emissions from combustion processes in industrial boilers, while Rolls-Royce completes its bat-trick with a combustion chamber for jet engines that reduces the emission of polluting gases.

- Roger Trapp

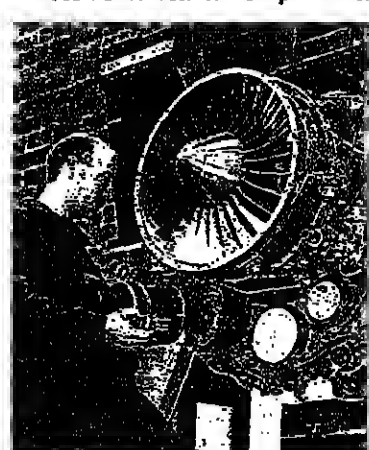
Triple crown for high-flying Rolls-Royce

By Martin Whitfield

ROLLS-ROYCE swept the board with Queen's Awards in all three categories: export, technology and environmental achievement.

The awards - to three separate divisions of the Derby-based company - are recognition of the company's growing strength in the market for advanced jet engines. Last year, Rolls-Royce gained a record 34 per cent market share against its US rivals, General Electric and Pratt & Whitney.

Colin Green, director of operations,



Turbo-charged: Rolls-Royce won awards in all categories

said technology was at the heart of all the company's products. "The design principle that lies behind the development of Rolls-Royce aero engines is a mixture of innovation and experience."

The order-book at Rolls-Royce stands at £10.1bn (another record) and the widespread market for aero engines has meant that the company has not faced quite the same problem with a strong pound as many exporters. The price of aircraft engines is usually in US dollars, against which the pound's appreciation has not been as great as European currencies. Firm demand in North America and Europe has also helped counter the deferrals of orders from the Far East. New orders from Delta and American Airlines for engines have replaced deferrals from Singapore Airlines, for example.

The Trent 800, the engine used to power Boeing 777s and Trent 700, used on the Airbus A330, have been the main factors behind the export success. Between 1994 and 1996, all Trent deliveries were export achievements.

The Trent 500, selected to power the new Airbus A340, has already been ordered for more than 100 aircraft for delivery in the next millennium.

The company's technology award is also focused on the Trent 800 and the development of gas-turbine technology which allows the engine to be used on short high-altitude runways on hot days as well as achieve extra general efficiency to raise maximum range and payload.

The engine is a derivative of the RB211, used originally in the Lockheed Tristar which delivered 40,000lbs of thrust. At 92,000lbs, the Trent 800 has more than double the power.

Rolls-Royce says the technological developments allow this greater power to be harnessed while giving users extra fuel savings at the same time.

Fuel savings and lower harmful exhaust emissions gained Rolls-Royce its third award for environmental achievement. Specifically, the award relates to the production of a combustion chamber for jet engines, which is claimed to give the lowest emissions of all the world's large aircraft engines.

At a time of increasing concern over the damage done to the ozone layer by aero engine emissions, the development of cleaner engines has become a major priority for all manufacturers. Funding support for the project also came from the DTI and the MoD. The relatively simple fuel injection of the so-called Phase 5 combustor is said to deliver better results than the more complex systems under development by competitors.

The technology behind the new combustor will benefit all Rolls-Royce engines and produces 40 per cent less nitrous oxide (NOx) when fitted to engines typically used on a Boeing 747. In reality, this means a reduction of 140 tons of NOx per 747 per year on a regular run between London and New York and a reduction of 1,155 tons of carbon dioxide (CO2).

The Queen's Award for Export Achievement

ADC Metrics	Morrison Bowmore
Abbeyvet Export Limited	Distillers Limited
Aber Instruments Ltd	Mott MacDonald Group Limited
Accuracy International Ltd	Nauticallia Ltd
Applied Communications Inc Ltd	Newall Measurement Systems Ltd
Aquamant (UK) Limited	News Digital Systems Plc
Ariella Fashions 80's Ltd	Norbar Torque Tools Ltd
Aston Martin Lagonda Limited	The Northampton Machinery Company Ltd
Aston Packaging Limited	Novartis Grimsby
Atlas Ward Structures Limited	Ocular Sciences Ltd
WW Bellamy (Bakers) Ltd	Pace Micro Technology Plc
Bio-Rad Micromedical Ltd	Praxair Circuits Limited
Enid Byron Limited	Prigee International Ltd
Braine Elevator Components Ltd	The Fragrance Division of Quest International
Brinsons Limited	Rhône-Poulenc Rorer Ltd
HP Bulmer Ltd	Rolls-Royce Commercial Aero Engines Limited
Cable & Wireless Marine Ltd	Rotary (International) Limited
Calcarb Limited	Rover Group Ltd
Cambridge Animation Systems Ltd	SMC Transit International
Cambridge University Press	Samsung Electronics
Cape Boards Ltd	Manufacturing (UK) Limited
Cleveland Cascades	Sanya Electric Manufacturing (UK) Limited
COBE Laboratories Limited	Schebler Filters Limited
Corney & Barrow (Broker Services) Limited	International Energy & Projects Division of J Henry
Cussons Technology	Schroder & Co Limited
De La Rue Holographics - a division of De La Rue International Ltd	Scomark Engineering Limited
The Dudson Group of Companies	Scottish & Newcastle Plc - International Division
Electro Furnace Products Limited	Seafood Marketing International Plc
Energy for Sustainable Development Limited	Seal Sands Chemicals Ltd
Euro/DPC Limited	Sema Group Telecoms
Europa Scientific Ltd	Division of Sema Group UK Ltd
The Folio Society Limited	SEOS Displays Limited
France Anglerie Ltd	Sibert Instruments Limited
GEC Alsthom Ruston Diesels Limited	Software 2000 Ltd
Gordon & Innes Ltd	Solid State Logic Ltd
William Grant & Sons Ltd	Statestrong Limited
Griffin-Woodhouse Limited	Steffen, Robertson and Kirsten (UK) Ltd
Hammersmith Medicines Research Ltd	Sterling International Movers Ltd
Hawker Energy Products Ltd	Strix Ltd
Heacric Ltd	Sulzer Vascutek Ltd
K Home Engineering Ltd	Sutcliffe Speakman Carbons Ltd
John Horsfall & Sons (Greetland) Ltd	Switzer Limited
Huf UK Limited	TSL Group Plc
Domnick Hunter Limited	Thames Distributors Limited
IMI Watson Smith Ltd	Thermotek Systems Limited
ITE Group Plc	WH Tracey Textile Recyclers
Innovative Tooling Solutions (ITS) - a division of Forth Tool & Valve Ltd	UCB Films Plc
Inspect Fine Chemicals Ltd	UWG Limited
International Sorbent Technology Ltd	UNECIA Ltd (Universities of England Consortium for International Activities)
Johnson & Johnson Medical Ltd	VZS Technical Ceramics Ltd
Joy Mining Machinery Limited	Visual Communications Group Limited
Kingspan Building Products Limited	Vosper Thornycroft Holdings Plc
Lloyd Loom of Spalding Ltd	Ward Shoes
Load-Lok Manufacturing Ltd	Wavespec Limited
Mabey and Johnson Limited	Weardale Steel (Wolsingham) Limited
The Macallan Distillers Ltd	Wesley Jessen PBH Ltd
Merechoice Limited	Vivienne Westwood Ltd
Micro Medical Ltd	York International Limited - Manufacturing Division
Mondiale Corporation Limited	Zeneca LifeScience Molecules

The Queen's Award for Technological Achievement

Advent Communications Ltd	Rolls-Royce Plc, Engineering & Technology
BBC Research and Development	SEOS Displays Limited
DRS Hadland Ltd	Smiths Industries Aerospace; Civil Systems - UK
Electronic Techniques (Anglia) Ltd	Snell & Wilcox Ltd
Institute of Laryngology and Otology	Stewart Hughes Ltd
The Imaging Division of Nycomed Amersham Plc	Surface Technology Systems Limited
Otodynamics Limited	Surrey Satellite Technology Limited

The Queen's Award for Environmental Achievement

Energy Technology & Control Ltd	Pilkington Plc
Euro Chemical Control Plc	Rolls-Royce Plc, Aerospace

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Rusedski to face Becker revival

Tennis

By John Roberts
in Monte Carlo

GREG RUSEDSKI'S first appearance at the Monte Carlo Open may coincide with Boris Becker's last, depending on the outcome of their second-round match tomorrow and the former Wimbledon champion's willingness to extend his playing career beyond this season of semi-retirement.

Becker, 30, whose principal role nowadays is manager and mentor of Germany's rising Davis Cup players ("I don't see myself as a tennis player any more. I'm a tennis coach"), defeated Rusedski in their two previous matches in 1996, in five sets in the first round of the Australian Open and in straight sets indoors in Stuttgart.

It was put to Becker that Rusedski, the British No 1, the world No 5, and the No 3 seed at the \$2.45m (£1.4m) event here, has developed into a different player since they last played. "I'm a different player, too," Becker replied, smiling. "Already then I could see that he had all the potential to be where he is right now. He is one of the best serve and volley players around. I hope he gives me

a chance to return a few of his serves and he's not returning all my serves, and we can have an entertaining match."

On this occasion the common denominator is the clay court, which is not the preferred surface of either player. None of Becker's 49 singles titles was won on the slow, red stuff, although he has contested three Monte Carlo finals (in 1989, '91 and '95). A wild card entry this time, the 66th-ranked Becker made an impressive recovery in his first-round match yesterday, defeating the Dutchman Jan Siemerink, 5-7, 6-3, 6-1.

"On any other surface, Rusedski reaches finals and wins tournaments, so he has the same problem I used to have," Becker said, smiling again. "His biggest weapon is his serve. The clay court sort of slows everything down. That gives me a chance."

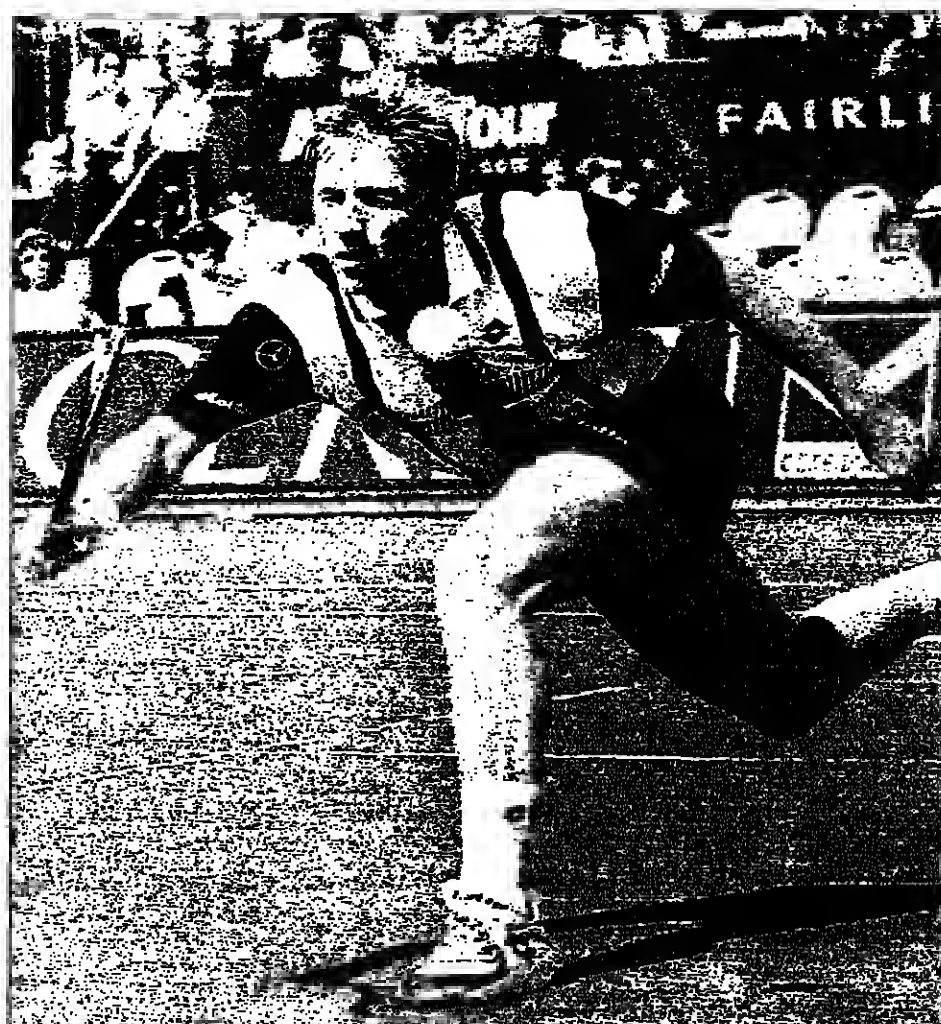
Becker said he only asked for a wild card here as part of his priority to keep himself fit for the Davis Cup. Germany's next tie is against Sweden, the holders, in Germany in July. "I don't plan further than that," he said. "I'm here to enjoy myself and to give a good performance. At this stage, I'm not thinking about the tournament victory. I'm just happy to be

alive here after the first round and hope to give my next opponent a good match."

If Becker finds that he is no longer able to give a decent account of himself, he will put away his rackets as far as tournament play is concerned. "I'm not going to make a fool out of myself," he said. "I'm not going to embarrass myself on the court losing 6-2, 6-1. I'm involved with the German tennis federation, plus I have a number of other business interests which I follow. It's my sixth tournament since Wimbledon last year, so you can imagine that I'm not a full-time professional any more."

Regarding Wimbledon this year, Becker remains Mr One Percent, the chance he gives himself of returning to play at the All England Club. "I just believe in never saying never."

Tim Henman's first footing on the Monte Carlo clay will be today, when he faces the difficult prospect of a first round match against Galo Blanco, a Spanish qualifier who was a quarter-finalist at the French Open last year, losing to the Australian Pat Rafter. Blanco, although ranked 44 places below Henman at No 59, is a natural clay-courtier who has worked himself into match



Boris Becker plays a forehand volley in his three-set defeat of Jan Siemerink in the first round of the Monte Carlo Open yesterday

toughness through last week's qualifying tournament.

The most impressive performance on the opening day came from Germany's Nicolas Kiefer, whose attacking play

dismantled the Spaniard Felix Mantilla, 6-1, 6-4. Kiefer, one of the reasons why Becker is so enthusiastic about his Davis Cup role, said he was fresh for the match after spending the

whole of last week practising at the Monte Carlo Country Club, while all the other guys played straight after Davis Cup.

Results, Digest, page 31

Davis shows his quality

Snooker

STEVE DAVIS smoothly scored his way into the last 16 of the Embassy World Championship in Sheffield yesterday, beating Simon Bedford, a 22-year-old qualifier. Bedford put up a commendable show on his Crucible Theatre debut, but eventually lost 10-6 to the six-times world champion.

At 40, Davis is the oldest competitor in the 32-man field but he has no intention of hanging up his cue. "I'd like to be regarded as the Jack Nicklaus of snooker," he said after guaranteeing his place in the top 16 players in the rankings for a record 19th successive season.

"It struck me last week while watching him in the US Masters that I'd love to achieve half what he's achieved in terms of age."

"If I can come back to the Crucible when I'm 50 and even just pot one ball that would be nice. I might even smile," added Davis, whose namesake Fred died last Wednesday.

Fred did not retire until he was 78 so the younger Davis - no relation - has a good few years left in him. "I'd like to have Fred's outlook," added Davis, who had been 6-5 down to Bedford yesterday before winning five successive frames against the world No 215.

When he went ahead 6-5, Bedford looked well equipped to inflict a humiliating defeat on a legend. Instead, Davis conceded only 66 points in the next five frames. He now meets the Masters champion, Mark Williams, or Quinten Hann of Australia for a place in the quarter-finals.

"It doesn't matter how many times I come here, these first round games are always the worst," he added. "It feels like you're playing with someone else's arm. As soon as some say April and Sheffield it strikes fear into your heart."

"I'd recommend it to anyone who is going to play snooker. Simon acquitted himself very well and didn't play like some so lowly ranked. There are no mugs these days anyway."

Bedford, playing his 10th match of the competition at his fourth different venue, said after his defeat: "If Steve maintains the rhythm he showed towards the end, he'll be hard to beat. I thought I might win easily at 6-5 but he came back well."

Bedford was due to compete in the United Kingdom Tour event at Newcastle under Lyme last night but decided to withdraw from the competition. "I think I deserve a rest. Besides I've already qualified for the main tour next season," he said.

Medallist tells court of systematic doping by East Germany

Doping in Sport

AN OLYMPIC bronze medallist swimmer became the first East German athlete to testify about the former communist nation's doping programme in court in Berlin yesterday, saying she and others were pressured to take steroids.

Christiane Knacke-Sommer, now 36, said she became aware that the pills coaches started giving her at age 15 were steroids, but that her efforts to resist were

overridden by the coaches' insistence. They told her simply that the pills were meant to improve endurance, she testified.

"We had to take them in front of [our trainer]. We were told that it would make our training easier to take," she said.

Four East German coaches and two doctors are charged with harming 19 swimmers, teenagers at the time, by giving them anabolic steroids. The 19 women now suffer from such side-effects as disturbed muscle growth, excessive body hair or

a deepened voice. Knacke-Sommer testified that her voice became deeper and her legs hairier following a regimen of pills and injections starting in 1977. However, court was closed for testimony dealing with the hormonal and sexual effects of the alleged steroid programme.

Knacke-Sommer, who won her bronze in the 100 metres butterfly in 1980, said swimmers old enough for competition-level training were given pills daily in cups. She said they were never shown the pills' original packing.

Prosecutors say they have evidence that the coaches and doctors knew the health risks of the steroids, but nevertheless administered them under a state-sponsored push to create world champions. Prosecutors must prove a link between the steroids and health problems.

The defendants are the coaches Rolf Glaeser, 58, Volker Frischke, 53, Dieter Lindemann, 46, and Dieter Krause, 50; and two doctors, Dieter Bienen, 59, and Bernd Pansold, 56.

TODAY'S NUMBER

2
The number of goals the Velez Sarsfield goalkeeper, Jose Luis Chilavert, has scored in the past week. The Paraguayan captain, who scored in a midweek match in which he also saved a penalty, put the Argentinean league leaders on the way to a 6-1 win over Colon.

Awards provide some consolation for Leopards

Basketball

By Richard Taylor

GREATER London Leopards' Billy Mims and Eric Burks consoled themselves with the Bowers League's Coach and Player of the Year awards yesterday, while two of the players who dumped them out of the play-offs will hear today whether they can play in the Wembley finals on 2 and 3 May.

The fate of Manchester Giants' American duo of Michael

New and Steve McGlothlin is in the hands of Morris Wordsworth, the disciplinary chairman of the English Basketball Association.

New and McGlothlin were ejected from the Giants' 93-86 home defeat against Leopards in the first leg of the quarter-finals, after leaving the team bench to join an on-court row.

The Wembley date hardly appeared an issue at the time, but Giants then won twice on Leopards' own court. Sunday's 91-80 victory made them only

the second eighth-placed club in league history to oust the champions from the play-offs.

New and McGlothlin will not reach the 10-point mark and an automatic ban unless the EBA increases the punishment.

Giants will play Peugeot Bulls Birmingham in the first semi at Wembley, followed by holders Exide London Towers against Thames Valley Tigers.

Mims earned his award after Leopards became the first club in six years to defend the league championship successfully.

PHILIPS ECOTONE



Today we publish the results of The Independent Fantasy Football League. The league table includes all scores up to APRIL 15th. The player list includes scores from all games played until April 15th. Neither set of scores includes results from the FA Cup. The overall winner at the end of the season will win a pair of tickets to the World Cup finals in France.

Every time one of your players score you get four points. There are four points for a keeper or a defender every time their team keeps a clean sheet. If a player scores the winning goal. Let's if there is a one goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the winning team is awarded 1 bonus point awarded in addition to standard goal related points. Each successful Assist, a pass judged by our experts to lead directly to a goal will give a player 3 points. The opinion of our experts on the matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game will be awarded one point.

If a player is given a Yellow Card they lose 1 point, if a player is given a Red Card they lose 3 points. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count.
The Premiership Manager that you choose will be awarded 3 points if their real-life team wins. 1 point is awarded if they draw and no points are given if they lose.
Updated player scores and league tables will be published every Tuesday in The Independent and repeated the following Sunday in The Independent on Sunday.

HOW TO SCORE	
player scores	4
clean sheet	4
winning goal	1
successful assist	3
Yellow card	-1
Red card	-3
manager's team wins	3
draw	1

Independent Fantasy Football

OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 8 AUGUST - 15 APRIL

POS	NAME	TEAM	POINTS
1	Mr C King	Peeking Victory	1019
2	Mr P Tuller	Pin Ups 4	1019
3	Mr D Evans	Bothen End Old Boys	1019
4	Mr J Cox	Southville FC	1019
5	Mr D Edmington	Edmo United	1017
6	Mr J Hayes	Early Birds	1016
7	Mr Archer	No Wright	1012
8	Mr B Sari	Simply The Best	1010
9	Mr D Baker	Deja Vu	1009
10	Mr I Boyle	Wembley Bounders	1003
11	Mr A Wingrove	Tony's Boys	1003
12	Mr T Lyons	Diana's Demons	1003
13	Mr D Sari	The Untouchables	1000
14	Mr D Aston	Billy's Boy's 2nd 11	1000
15	Mr S Scott	Unbeatable	1000
16	Mr G Bell	The Hair Monsters	998
17	Mr A Choudi	Nikies 9th 11	994
18	Mr D Aston	Billy's Boy's 3rd 11	994
19	Mr P Cridland	PDC2	987
20	Mr I Brown	The Hoofers	986
21	Mr S Scott	The Dream Team	983
22	Mr K Boyle	Clogston Rovers	982
23	Mr M Pawley	Robert's Raiders	981
24	Mr M Ewins	Mikes B Team	981
25	Mr M Ewins	Mikes C Team	980
26	Mr A Mitchell	Nursery Park Rovers	978
27	Mr M Ewins	I've Started But Will I Finish	975
28	Miss L Wild	Amaretto FC	975
29	Mr M Ewins	Mikes A Team	975
30	Mr A Mitchell	The Eye For It	975
31	Mr J McCrossan	Washed Up Army	973
32	Mr A Cunningham	The Zebra	970
33	Mr T Brazier	Wow For Short	970
34	Mr S Mann	Rebecca Rovers	966
35	Mr G Smith	The Jolly Combo Lately	964
36	Mr J Bikan	Mamho Mambo	962
37	Mr G Bell	Stunning Stunts	962
38	Mr M Mitchell	Induring Image	961

FOOT PLAYER	TEAM	PTS ON VALUE	GOAL KEEPER	TEAM	PTS ON VALUE	DEFENDERS	TEAM	PTS ON VALUE
455 Cox	BOL	0 30 2.5	457 Cox	BOL	0 30 2.5	457 Cox	BOL	0 30 2.5
456 Elliot	BOL	0 12 3.0	458 Elliot	BOL	0 12 3.0	458 Elliot	BOL	0 12 3.0
457 Fairhead	BOL	0 8 2.0	459 Fairhead	BOL	0 8 2.0	459 Fairhead	BOL	0 8 2.0
458 Begon	BOL	0 19 2.5	460 Begon	BOL	0 19 2.5	460 Begon	BOL	0 19 2.5
459 Bergson	BOL	0 68 1.5	461 Bergson	BOL	0 68 1.5	461 Bergson	BOL	0 68 1.5
460 Durrer	CHE	0 30 3.0	462 Durrer	CHE	0 30 3.0	462 Durrer	CHE	0 30 3.0
461 Putney	CHE	0 88 3.0	463 Putney	CHE	0 88 3.0	463 Putney	CHE	0 88 3.0
462 Lambourde	CHE	0 3 3.0	464 Lambourde	CHE	0 3 3.0	464 Lambourde	CHE	0 3 3.0
463 Lubeuf	CHE	0 31 3.0	465 Lubeuf	CHE	0 31 3.0	465 Lubeuf	CHE	0 31 3.0
464 Sinclair	COV	0 0 2.7	466 Sinclair	COV	0 0 2.7	466 Sinclair	COV	0 0 2.7
465 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	467 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	467 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7
466 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	468 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	468 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7
467 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	469 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	469 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7
468 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	470 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	470 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7
469 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	471 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	471 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7
470 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	472 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	472 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7
471 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	473 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	473 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7
472 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	474 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	474 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7
473 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	475 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	475 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7
474 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	476 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	476 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7
475 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	477 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	477 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7
476 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	478 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	478 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7
477 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	479 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	479 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7
478 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	480 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	480 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7
479 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	481 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	481 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7
480 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	482 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	482 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7
481 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	483 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	483 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7
482 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	484 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	484 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7
483 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	485 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	485 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7
484 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	486 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	486 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7
485 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	487 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	487 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7
486 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	488 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	488 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7
487 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	489 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	489 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7
488 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	490 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	490 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7
489 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	491 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	491 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7
490 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	492 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	492 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7
491 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	493 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	493 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7
492 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	494 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	494 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7
493 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	495 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	495 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7
494 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	496 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	496 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7
495 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	497 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	497 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7
496 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	498 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	498 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7
497 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	499 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	499 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7
498 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	500 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	500 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7
499 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	501 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	501 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7
500 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	502 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	502 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7
501 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	503 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	503 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7
502 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	504 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	504 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7
503 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	505 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	505 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7
504 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	506 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	506 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7
505 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	507 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	507 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7
506 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	508 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	508 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7
507 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	509 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	509 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7
508 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	510 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	510 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7
509 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	511 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	511 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7
510 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	512 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	512 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7
511 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	513 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	513 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7
512 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	514 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7	514 Burrows	COV	0 0 2.7
513 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	515 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7	515 Shaw	COV	0 0 2.7

Godsen backs French transfer

By John Cobb

THE DECISION by Sheikh Mohammed to switch part of his Godolphin operation to France has been under consideration since last autumn as part of a continued rationalisation programme, his trainer John Gosden said yesterday.

He described the transfer of up to 100 two-year-olds to Evry under the care of David Loder as "a shrewd move and the right move".

Gosden reported that he had warned the House of Commons All-Party Racing Committee of such a development soon after the Sheikh threatened a withdrawal from British racing in his speech at the Gimcrack dinner in December.

Gosden, a key adviser to the Sheikh, repeated his plea for the Government to carry out reforms to ensure owners receive a better return on their racing investments. He also spelled out why he is backing Peter Savill to become the next chairman of the British Horseracing Board,

rather than a newcomer to the sport such as the former banker Sir William Purves.

"I've been saying since I've been back in this country, we've got 10 years to get it right before the Millennium to restructure our business," he said. "I don't think we've got time for someone to go through a two-year learning curve who's retired out of another business. Fine, worthy people whoever they are, I don't think we need that."

"We need people who have the inside knowledge and who are prepared to get in there and work flat out at it and out have 16 other directors. I think that point was made in the Gimcrack speech."

Gosden was speaking at a lunch to mark Saturday's Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown. Referring to the Government, he said: "I think if they wish to see racing remain in Britain at a pre-eminent level then there is an incentive for the Government to do something. 'If they don't have a care and don't give a damn and we wind

up with something the equivalent of second-, third-division quality rather than the big league then that's their wish."

Gosden believes that Godolphin will be able to exploit the

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Magic Colours
(Folkestone 5.30)
NB: Magic Mill
(Pontefract 4.20)

less competitive programme of two-year-olds in France but that his best young horses will continue to travel over to Britain for key races.

"It's a great facility to train at, the French racing programme for two-year-olds is a

good one to develop horses through, and since the death of François Boutin, metropolitan two-year-old racing is not as hotly competitive as it was."

"David Loder is the perfect guy for the job. He particularly likes training two-year-olds. He has a real passion for it. He's the perfect choice and I think it will be a great success."

"Godolphin is Dubai based and it knows no boundaries. They've raced horses in Australia, Hong Kong, California, East Coast, England, Ireland, France, Italy. It matters not to them where they go."

"That's the point I tried to make to the All-Party Committee that Flat racing and breed-

ing is a highly international business now. It was parochial 15 years ago, it's not anymore."

"The maroon and white population [of Sheikh Mohammed] has been rationalised for the last six years and it will probably continue. Like a lot of businesses in the Emirates it's expanded, and a lot of businesses through that time overgrew themselves. Certainly through the Emirates there has been a continued rationalisation."

Gosden's attempt to win a fifth Sandown Classic Trial on Saturday may be thwarted by the weather which threatens the meeting. Gosden plans to saddle the Muhathir in the Group Three event which he has won with Pollen Court, True Hero, Linney Head and Santillana and in which his subsequent Derby winner Benny The Dip finished second last year.

However, the Prix de Jockey Club is the more likely long-term target for Muhathir, who chased home the Derby favourite Single Empire in the Prix des Chenes at Longchamp.

Instead, Gosden rates the Nottingham maiden winner Almandah the best of his eight Derby entries. He runs at Sandown on Friday.

However, the recent wet weather could cause the abandonment of the meeting. Executives at Sandown admitted yesterday that unexpected downpours on Sunday night which yielded three quarters of an inch of rain have left the Flat course unraceable.

As a result, an all-weather card or a programme featuring only two Flat events on the sprint track might be prepared unless there is a significant break in the pattern of April showers. The running of the £100,000 Whitbread Gold Cup is unlikely to be hindered even by what the clerk of the course describes as "the softest jumping ground for the race for at least five or six years."

"We desperately need a couple of dry days but even the most optimistic forecast predicts rain. I just hope it isn't too much," he said.

Pontefract

2.15 Best Health Boy
2.50 Ocker
3.20 Captain's Log
3.50 Libra Star

GOING: Good to Soft (Soft in places)
STALLS: All races made, except 3m (centre). ORAW ADVANTAGE: Low best up to one mile.
● Left-hand, undulating course.
● Course is 6m W of town of Pontefract (M6) station (service from Leeds and Wakefield).
● Trenchard station (service from Wakefield) adjacent course.
● ADRIANSON: 2m, 2.5m, 3m, 3.5m, 4m, 4.5m, 5m, 5.5m, 6m, 6.5m, 7m, 7.5m, 8m, 8.5m, 9m, 9.5m, 10m, 10.5m, 11m, 11.5m, 12m, 12.5m, 13m, 13.5m, 14m, 14.5m, 15m, 15.5m, 16m, 16.5m, 17m, 17.5m, 18m, 18.5m, 19m, 19.5m, 20m, 20.5m, 21m, 21.5m, 22m, 22.5m, 23m, 23.5m, 24m, 24.5m, 25m, 25.5m, 26m, 26.5m, 27m, 27.5m, 28m, 28.5m, 29m, 29.5m, 30m, 30.5m, 31m, 31.5m, 32m, 32.5m, 33m, 33.5m, 34m, 34.5m, 35m, 35.5m, 36m, 36.5m, 37m, 37.5m, 38m, 38.5m, 39m, 39.5m, 40m, 40.5m, 41m, 41.5m, 42m, 42.5m, 43m, 43.5m, 44m, 44.5m, 45m, 45.5m, 46m, 46.5m, 47m, 47.5m, 48m, 48.5m, 49m, 49.5m, 50m, 50.5m, 51m, 51.5m, 52m, 52.5m, 53m, 53.5m, 54m, 54.5m, 55m, 55.5m, 56m, 56.5m, 57m, 57.5m, 58m, 58.5m, 59m, 59.5m, 60m, 60.5m, 61m, 61.5m, 62m, 62.5m, 63m, 63.5m, 64m, 64.5m, 65m, 65.5m, 66m, 66.5m, 67m, 67.5m, 68m, 68.5m, 69m, 69.5m, 70m, 70.5m, 71m, 71.5m, 72m, 72.5m, 73m, 73.5m, 74m, 74.5m, 75m, 75.5m, 76m, 76.5m, 77m, 77.5m, 78m, 78.5m, 79m, 79.5m, 80m, 80.5m, 81m, 81.5m, 82m, 82.5m, 83m, 83.5m, 84m, 84.5m, 85m, 85.5m, 86m, 86.5m, 87m, 87.5m, 88m, 88.5m, 89m, 89.5m, 90m, 90.5m, 91m, 91.5m, 92m, 92.5m, 93m, 93.5m, 94m, 94.5m, 95m, 95.5m, 96m, 96.5m, 97m, 97.5m, 98m, 98.5m, 99m, 99.5m, 100m, 100.5m, 101m, 101.5m, 102m, 102.5m, 103m, 103.5m, 104m, 104.5m, 105m, 105.5m, 106m, 106.5m, 107m, 107.5m, 108m, 108.5m, 109m, 109.5m, 110m, 110.5m, 111m, 111.5m, 112m, 112.5m, 113m, 113.5m, 114m, 114.5m, 115m, 115.5m, 116m, 116.5m, 117m, 117.5m, 118m, 118.5m, 119m, 119.5m, 120m, 120.5m, 121m, 121.5m, 122m, 122.5m, 123m, 123.5m, 124m, 124.5m, 125m, 125.5m, 126m, 126.5m, 127m, 127.5m, 128m, 128.5m, 129m, 129.5m, 130m, 130.5m, 131m, 131.5m, 132m, 132.5m, 133m, 133.5m, 134m, 134.5m, 135m, 135.5m, 136m, 136.5m, 137m, 137.5m, 138m, 138.5m, 139m, 139.5m, 140m, 140.5m, 141m, 141.5m, 142m, 142.5m, 143m, 143.5m, 144m, 144.5m, 145m, 145.5m, 146m, 146.5m, 147m, 147.5m, 148m, 148.5m, 149m, 149.5m, 150m, 150.5m, 151m, 151.5m, 152m, 152.5m, 153m, 153.5m, 154m, 154.5m, 155m, 155.5m, 156m, 156.5m, 157m, 157.5m, 158m, 158.5m, 159m, 159.5m, 160m, 160.5m, 161m, 161.5m, 162m, 162.5m, 163m, 163.5m, 164m, 164.5m, 165m, 165.5m, 166m, 166.5m, 167m, 167.5m, 168m, 168.5m, 169m, 169.5m, 170m, 170.5m, 171m, 171.5m, 172m, 172.5m, 173m, 173.5m, 174m, 174.5m, 175m, 175.5m, 176m, 176.5m, 177m, 177.5m, 178m, 178.5m, 179m, 179.5m, 180m, 180.5m, 181m, 181.5m, 182m, 182.5m, 183m, 183.5m, 184m, 184.5m, 185m, 185.5m, 186m, 186.5m, 187m, 187.5m, 188m, 188.5m, 189m, 189.5m, 190m, 190.5m, 191m, 191.5m, 192m, 192.5m, 193m, 193.5m, 194m, 194.5m, 195m, 195.5m, 196m, 196.5m, 197m, 197.5m, 198m, 198.5m, 199m, 199.5m, 200m, 200.5m, 201m, 201.5m, 202m, 202.5m, 203m, 203.5m, 204m, 204.5m, 205m, 205.5m, 206m, 206.5m, 207m, 207.5m, 208m, 208.5m, 209m, 209.5m, 210m, 210.5m, 211m, 211.5m, 212m, 212.5m, 213m, 213.5m, 214m, 214.5m, 215m, 215.5m, 216m, 216.5m, 217m, 217.5m, 218m, 218.5m, 219m, 219.5m, 220m, 220.5m, 221m, 221.5m, 222m, 222.5m, 223m, 223.5m, 224m, 224.5m, 225m, 225.5m, 226m, 226.5m, 227m, 227.5m, 228m, 228.5m, 229m, 229.5m, 230m, 230.5m, 231m, 231.5m, 232m, 232.5m, 233m, 233.5m, 234m, 234.5m, 235m, 235.5m, 236m, 236.5m, 237m, 237.5m, 238m, 238.5m, 239m, 239.5m, 240m, 240.5m, 241m, 241.5m, 242m, 242.5m, 243m, 243.5m, 244m, 244.5m, 245m, 245.5m, 246m, 246.5m, 247m, 247.5m, 248m, 248.5m, 249m, 249.5m, 250m, 250.5m, 251m, 251.5m, 252m, 252.5m, 253m, 253.5m, 254m, 254.5m, 255m, 255.5m, 256m, 256.5m, 257m, 257.5m, 258m, 258.5m, 259m, 259.5m, 260m, 260.5m, 261m, 261.5m, 262m, 262.5m, 263m, 263.5m, 264m, 264.5m, 265m, 265.5m, 266m, 266.5m, 267m, 267.5m, 268m, 268.5m, 269m, 269.5m, 270m, 270.5m, 271m, 271.5m, 272m, 272.5m, 273m, 273.5m, 274m, 274.5m, 275m, 275.5m, 276m, 276.5m, 277m, 277.5m, 278m, 278.5m, 279m, 279.5m, 280m, 280.5m, 281m, 281.5m, 282m, 282.5m, 283m, 283.5m, 284m, 284.5m, 285m, 285.5m, 286m, 286.5m, 287m, 287.5m, 288m, 288.5m, 289m, 289.5m, 290m, 290.5m, 291m, 291.5m, 292m, 292.5m, 293m, 293.5m, 294m, 294.5m, 295m, 295.5m, 296m, 296.5m, 297m, 297.5m, 298m, 298.5m, 299m, 299.5m, 300m, 300.5m, 301m, 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Wales' 1972 side were not all-in wrestlers with a turn of speed



ALAN WATKINS
ON RUGBY

IDLY pressing the buttons of my television remote control the other evening, I came upon a replay of Wales v Scotland at Cardiff in 1972. This was the match which Wales won 35-12 and in which Gareth Edwards scored his famous try in the corner after his own kick ahead.

It was in black and white. For this reason Wales were wearing dark shorts, to set them apart from Scotland. In fact, Wales used to wear navy blue shorts until 1949 (as Ireland used to wear club stockings until about the same time). But that had nothing to do with the requirements of the television audience. Most of the players had huge sideboards and very long

hair. They may or may not have made up the best Welsh side ever. For the benefit of sentimentalists, who include myself, the line-up was:

J. Williams: G. Davies, R. Bergiers, A. Lewis, J. Bevan; B. John, G. Edwards, J. Lloyd, J. Young, B. Llewellyn, D. Thomas, G. Evans, D. Morris, M. Davies, J. Taylor.

What was striking about them was not only that they had long hair but that they looked more or less like normal members of the human race. So, I hasten to add, did the members of the Scotland team likewise. Though there were numerous solid citizens going about their tasks, they did not appear to be

all-in wrestlers endowed with a turn of speed.

The midfield players had more time and space than their successors would have today.

There are certain players, admittedly, who can still acquire these desirable commodities as if by magic. Thomas Castaignède did so for France in Wales' Wembley debacle — though on that day none of the other British Isles countries would have stopped him either.

Perhaps Barry John and Phil Bennett could do the same if they were miraculously restored to the field. Somehow I doubt it. The game has changed: it is a different game. It is, in my opinion, a less attractive game,

despite the high scores in the Five Nations' Championship and in club matches.

Saracens v Newcastle was not one of these high-scoring encounters. Low-scoring matches, even those in which no tries at all are scored, can still be enthralling occasions. A set-to between Bath and Wasps at the Rec a few seasons ago was one of them: the struggle between Saracens and Newcastle at Watford on Sunday was not.

It was exciting because the lead changed and Michael Lynagh dropped the winning goal in (according to my watch) extra time, so providing a mirror image of what Rob Andrew had done to Australia in the World

Cup but, as a spectacle, it was a lot of big, strong, fit men bumping into one another.

Last week I ended with some criticisms of referees' interpretation of the laws relating to penalty tries and high or dangerous tackles. Today I should like to say something about protective clothing. The laws lay down that players may not wear "shoulder pads of the harness type, braces or supports which include any rigid or reinforced material, protective garments on any part of the body except as in section (1)".

Turning to this section we find that players may wear "soft thin pads of cotton wool, sponge rubber or similar soft material,

provided that they are attached to the body by adhesive tape and are not sewn into the jersey, shorts or undergarments".

In this country the gentlemen of the press are not, on the whole, made welcome in dressing-rooms as they are in France. And a good thing, too. Players deserve some privacy. In any case, sweaty male bodies hold little allure for this columnist.

But when the South Africans were last in Wales I came upon François Pienaar minus his jersey after a match. He was certainly well padded up around the shoulders. I did not look closely enough to be able to tell whether the pads were part of a harness. But to me

they did not look especially thin.

For that matter, what does "thin" mean? And why is sticky tape virtuous, but cotton tape vicious, if it forms part of a harness? In reality the laws on the subject seem to be flouted regularly these days. Many players now take the field with shoulder pads that would not look out of place on Joan Collins in *Dynasty*.

I cannot say I blame them. The professional game is now so rough and so dangerous that the laws should be modified to allow players of rugby union to have at least as much protection as players of league — though the consequence might be that the game would become rougher and more dangerous still.

Experience is vital prop for England squad

England's rugby union coach, Clive Woodward, has a tough task in choosing his southern hemisphere tourists. Chris Hewett reports

RUGBY'S once familiar landscape appears to be changing by the nanosecond, but the tree of knowledge still stands tall and strong on the horizon. Its students understand that certain behavioural principles will always apply: you do not, for example, mix it with Dean Ryan unless you have a death wish and you do not join Bristol if you fancy celebrating a victory once in a while. By the same yardstick, no one with any sense tours New Zealand with a pre-pubescent squad full of pasty-faced wannabes.

For reasons best known to the shell-suited stuffed shirts of Dublin, the Irish tried it on last year and quickly found themselves being rucked and rumbled into the Tasman Sea. If Clive Woodward, the England coach, misreads the tea leaves and gambles on a development-style party for this summer's five-match adventure in All Black country, he will fly home with two dozen hospital cases on one side of the plane and very nearly as many basket cases on the other.

Given that England start and end their sojourn with one-off Tests against Australia and South Africa, next month's business trip is even less of a

laughing matter than usual; indeed, Woodward is faced with the most awkward tour selection to confront a national coach since Henry V picked his line-up for Agincourt. On the one hand, he needs to keep at least some of his powder dry for next year's World Cup, and that means resting two shell-shocked senior forwards, Martin Johnson and Jason Leonard. On the other, he must safeguard morale by fielding competitive sides in all seven tour matches.

A significant number of experienced internationals would give their eyeteeth for a long summer's rest and recuperation on the sun lounge: Kyran Bracken, Neil Back, Jeremy Guscott and, if truth be told, Lawrence Dallaglio all fall into that category and Woodward is currently in diplomatic discussion with at least some of them. He should listen to their arguments and nod sympathetically before handing them their flight tickets. Faced with the least forgiving tour in their history, England cannot afford to be without them.

Should he need persuading of that fact, Woodward might usefully consult the history books. England last flew into the

fires of New Zealand in 1985 and of the 26 players selected, only three, Paul Dodge, Huw Davies and Gary Pearce, had earned more than a dozen caps. As a result, they were badly beaten by Auckland, taken every inch of the way by three other provinces and were eventually battered, quite literally, to a record defeat by the All Blacks in Wellington.

Thirteen years on, Woodward has the not inconsiderable advantage of 10 more seats on the plane. A 36-man arrangement allows him room for experimentation within the broader framework of a solid, seasoned squad and he should consider packing his problem areas with options. If that means taking six props, rather than the more obvious five, so be it.

He should travel with a clutch of outside-halves, too: Paul Grayson and Jonny Wilkinson are obvious first choices, but with Mark Mapletto playing his best rugby at Gloucester and Alex King fully deserving of an opportunity to make up ground so unfortunately conceded to injury, why not take all four?

Woodward had initially planned to name his squad within a fortnight of the England-Ireland match at Twickenham and the passing of that self-imposed deadline indicates that one or two positions are giving him more than his fair share of grief. Loose-head prop, the sheet anchor of any side, is undoubtedly at the top of the "imponderables" list. Leonard's fatigue, Kevin Yates' continuing suspension and young Michael Worsley's seemingly endless injury bashes leave Graham Rowntree, the Leicester Lion, in splendid isolation.

Rowntree, an honest toiler, would be the first to agree that his performances this season have been one punch short of a fracas, so Woodward could do



There is a case for asking Bath's Victor Ubogu to switch to loose head for England.

Photograph: Dan Smith/Allsport

Chris Hewett's England selection

Full-backs: M. Perry (Bath), T. Stimpson (Newcastle); Wings: D. Chapman (Richmond), A. Healey (Leicester), B. Johnson (Gloucester), D. Rees (Sale); Centres: M. Catt (Bath), P. de Glanville (Bath), W. Greenwood (Leicester), J. Guscott (Bath); Outside-halves: P. Grayson (Northampton), A. King (Wasps), M. Mapletto (Gloucester), J. Wilkinson (Newcastle); Scrum-halves: K. Bracken (Saracens), M. Dawson (Northampton); Loose-head props: G. Rowntree (Leicester), V. Ubogu (Bath); Hookers: G. Chuter (Saracens), R. Cockerill (Leicester), M. Regan (Bath); Tight-head props: D. Garforth (Leicester), W. Green (Wasps), J. Mallett (Bath), P. Vickery (Gloucester); Second rows: G. Archer (Newcastle), R. Fidler (Gloucester), D. Grenewood (Saracens), S. Shaw (Wasps); Flankers: N. Back (Leicester), L. Dallaglio (Wasps), S. Ojomoh (Gloucester), B. Sturham (Saracens), A. Bennett (Saracens); No 8s: A. Diprose (Saracens), D. Ryan (Newcastle).

far worse than ask the rejuvenated Victor Ubogu to swallow hard, switch from tight to loose and help his adopted country out of a hole. Ubogu remains the most gifted footballing prop in England and his scrummaging is on a high, as Roberto Grau, the arm-wrestling Saracen from Argentina, will testify.

The open-side cupboard is

very nearly as bare, thanks to Richard Hill's painstaking recovery from back surgery. Alex Bennett, a club-mate of Hill's at Saracens, might just fit the bill as Back's deputy but there is also a powerful argument for taking Steve Ojomoh, who covers all three breakdown positions and is now performing at something close to Test pitch.

Faced with such icy selec-

torial issues, Woodward will probably spend the next few evenings locked in his study with only a pot of black coffee and a packet of charcoal biscuits for company. One decision should not cost the coach a moment's sleep, however: the rehabilitation of Tim Stimpson as an international full-back is an absolute priority.

His sudden descent into

anonymity, the direct result of a contractual dispute with Newcastle, hastened the emergence of Matt Perry and the Bath youngster is indeed the classic of class acts. But England can ill afford the indefinite marginalisation of so rich a talent as Stimpson's, whose continued absence would be of no conceivable benefit to anyone.

Ferdinand and Le Tissier to play in England B team



GLENN HODDLE has included five players with full international caps in the England B side for tonight's friendly with Russia at Loftus Road.

Matthew Le Tissier, Darren Anderson, Ian Walker, Les Ferdinand and Nick Barry have already represented their country at senior level. Walker, Le Tissier and Ferdinand all played in the World Cup defeat by Italy at Wembley 14 months ago which looked to have dashed

England's hopes of automatic qualification for France 98.

Although Ferdinand and Walker were originally named in the senior squad to face Portugal at Wembley tomorrow, Hoddle has decided that they will gain more from actually playing against the Russians.

Ferdinand, in particular, needs to get match-fit — the Tottenham striker's appearance at Barnsley on Saturday was only his first start since 7 February following groin and knee problems.

It will be Le Tissier's first in-

ternational appearance since the defeat by Italy, for which he was made the scapegoat.

The Southampton player has fought his way back to fitness after a foot problem and then a broken arm hindered his progress and always believed he would earn a recall.

He said: "From my point of view the door has never been closed on me — and that's the way I've always looked at it. I've just kept plugging away, and things have turned around. This is probably my most realistic chance of getting

to a World Cup finals because I will be past 33 in four years' time.

"I know there are a couple of players in the squad of that age, but it's different to me in that they've been around a long time and have won a lot of caps. "You don't know how I will be playing in 2002, but this time around is definitely my best chance of making it."

Anderson's wait for an international return has been even longer. His last Euro 96 appearance was in the Euro 96 semi-final against Germany at

Wembley and since then he has been constantly troubled by a groin problem. At the moment he is also having to be content with a place on the bench at White Hart Lane.

It is likely that Barry and Ferdinand will play up front with the attacking flair behind them of Anderson, Sinclair and Le Tissier in an attack-minded 5-3-2 formation.

ENGLAND B vs Russia B, Loftus Road, 7.45p. Walker (Tottenham), Wilson (Newcastle), Gerrard (Chelsea), Williams (Cardiff), Carragher (Liverpool), Anderson (Tottenham), Sinclair (West Ham), Barry (Sheff Wed), Ferdinand (Tottenham), Le Tissier (Southampton), Quinn (Sheff Wed). Substitutes to be arranged.

FA warns fans not to raise hotline hopes

FOOTBALL supporters have been warned not to raise their expectations before the release of 110,000 World Cup tickets. The tickets for 55 first and second-round matches in France will be available through a telephone hotline from 0.700 BST tomorrow.

They will be sold on a first come first served basis and open to residents from 18 European countries. However, fans hoping to see England and Scotland's group games are likely to be disappointed. There will be no tickets on sale via the hotline for the opening game between Scotland and the holders, Brazil.

"We are not expecting a great number of tickets for England games to be available," a Football Association spokesman said. "It's more likely that tickets will be available for games featuring countries with less support."

The ticket hotline number is 0033-149-875-354.

Heiner's hunch sets the pace



Sailing

By Stuart Alexander in Fort Lauderdale

A PRE-PLANNED tactical gamble by the Dutchman Roy Heiner to take Brunel Sunergy a lot further to the east than the rest of the fleet was paying off handsomely yesterday as he established a 26-mile lead, 24 hours into the 870-mile, seventh leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race.

"We are concentrating on going fast and having a great time doing it," crewman Mike Joubert said. "We are trying a few things different on this leg, and it all seems to be going to plan."

"Skipper Roy Heiner, navigator Stuart Quaxie and guest star Fritz Kock have spent many hours contemplating the advantages of Gulf Stream versus favourable wind. How this will work out, only time will tell."

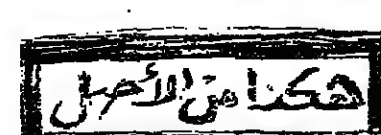
Yesterday afternoon the conditions were still working in Heiner's favour as he sped downwind under spinnaker two

knots faster than the pack. Heiner's position some 79 miles to the east of the fleet, who were reaching in a north-westerly breeze, could also work well again if the wind moves into the north-east. That would give him a faster angle of approach to Baltimore's Chesapeake Bay.

George Collins, desperate to sail Chesie Racing into ber home port at the head of the fleet, led the conventional group playing the Gulf Stream, which flows northwards up the coast at three to four knots.

Chesie led the fleet away from the start in Fort Lauderdale on Sunday, but held only a one-mile advantage over third-placed Knut Frostad's Innovation Kvaerner as the pack continued to average 12 to 14 knots, on schedule to finish tomorrow.

WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD (seventh leg, 870 miles, Fort Lauderdale to Baltimore): 1 Brunel Sunergy (Dutch) 81 miles; 2 Chesie Racing (US) 62 miles; 3 Innovation Kvaerner (Norwegian) 57 miles; 4 Knut Frostad (Norwegian) 52 miles; 5 G. Collins (US) 47 miles; 6 G. Collins (US) 42 miles; 7 G. Collins (US) 37 miles; 8 G. Collins (US) 32 miles; 9 G. Collins (US) 27 miles; 10 G. Collins (US) 22 miles; 11 G. Collins (US) 17 miles; 12 G. Collins (US) 12 miles; 13 G. Collins (US) 7 miles; 14 G. Collins (US) 2 miles.



County Championship: Martin-Jenkins shows his mettle at Hove and Glamorgan triumph but Nottinghamshire suffer misfortune

Victory a rare treat for Sussex members

By David Llewellyn
at Hove

Lancashire 266 & 68-0 dec
Sussex 75-4 dec & 260-8
Sussex win by two wickets

THE cruelty of cricket is infinite. The game's vulnerability to the weather has proved frustrating on countless occasions in the past, but yesterday the pain for the home supporters must have been exquisite. Sussex were within 12 runs of a deserved victory when a sudden squally shower struck. By the time it had passed over and the groundstaff had restored order to the square they had been robbed of 10 of the remaining 12 overs and suddenly four days of Championship cricket had been reduced to a one-day finish. A dozen runs. It was unbearable to think that so little separated Sussex from their first County Championship victory at headquarters for 22 months.

Between them, Peter Moores and Jasno Lewry took half a dozen off the first of three two overs, but when Lewry was bowled by the slow left-arm Gary Keedy off the third ball of the final over it looked grim for the home side. James Kirtley, however, did not stand on ceremony, sweeping his first ball for four to see Sussex home with two balls to spare.

It was just as well - a lot of hard work earlier in the innings could have gone to waste. Keith Newell, with 52, and the inexperienced Robin Martin-Jenkins had compiled a century stand in the face of some excellent bowling by Lancashire. They began their rescue bid in the 46th over, when Sussex were wallowing at an uncon-

fortable 121 for 5. Lancashire tails were up, they had just got rid of the opener Wasim Khan, whose near three-hour stay had blocked their path. With him gone for 40, the way looked clear for a Lancashire win. Apart from Peter Moores, the rest of the batting had a decidedly temporary and raw look to it. But if the name is a mouthful, the innings was a handful. Martin-Jenkins did not take too long to settle in and within half a dozen overs had overtaken Newell. The interruption for tea did not put him off his stride. Watched from the Press box by his anxious father, Christopher Martin-Jenkins, the *Daily Telegraph* Cricket Correspondent and BBC Test Match Special commentator, the 22-year-old Durham University undergraduate worked his way without fuss, but with a degree of batting eloquence, to 63 off 91 balls - his highest first-class score - and helped Sussex to a winning position, before being bowled round his legs sweeping at Keedy.

The finish had been set up in no time at all. Sussex declared on their overnight score, 191, a drift of Lancashire's first innings, a target of 260 off 88 overs was agreed and Lancashire's openers, Michael Atherton and Nathan Wood were able to help themselves to runs in 15 minutes of Chris Adams and Rajesh Rao. Theo Adams played a captain's role in that he showed his usual aggression for 47 balls, in which time he scored 39, but, apart from the steady Wasim, there had been little resistance from the rest of the batting until Newell and Martin-Jenkins came and did the business.



Justin Langer, Middlesex's Australian batsman, is caught by Kent's David Fulton for 44 at Canterbury yesterday

Photograph: Peter Jay

Derbyshire benefit from Tolley's torrid time

By Mike Carey
at Derby

Nottinghamshire 118 & 312
Derbyshire 388 & 43-4
Derbyshire win by six wickets

DERBYSHIRE required to make 43 from six overs, scrambled home by six wickets with one ball to spare here yesterday. Though it was a victory they had thoroughly earned over the previous three days, it owed much to an injury to Chris Tolley which, cruelly for Nottinghamshire, came at a time when they appeared to be saving the game with some comfort.

Tolley damaged a calf muscle in completing the single that took him to his half century and he was carried off after he and Usman Afzaal had added 108 for the sixth wicket, at which stage only 21 runs remained and Nottinghamshire were 11 runs ahead.

At that point, with the ball moving around less than hither-to, Derbyshire's attack had started to look a little impotent. Afzaal's maiden undefeated century was a highly impressive affair made in the face of a certain amount of short-pitch bowling, and latterly Tolley matched him almost stroke for stroke.

Unfortunately for Nottinghamshire, Tolley's departure coincided with the availability of the new ball. Dominic Cork seized the moment, ran to formidably and when he took the wickets of Alex Wharf and Wayne Nevo in one over - the latter some way from the rapid deliveries that had bowled him - Derbyshire must have sensed that they would make the most of their big break.

Afzaal could not manipulate the strike in the way that a more experienced batsman might have done and in the end Tolley was obliged to reappear with a runner. By now the last

16 overs were in progress and every ball was vital. Tolley survived only three, during which a single was added, before being athletically picked up at slip by Vince Clarke, the substitute.

The bowler was Phil DeFreitas, who still had a part to play after Derbyshire lost three wickets with one run scored in the first two overs.

With only seven runs an over required, a more measured approach would surely have been better than the helter-skelter start dictated by Cork's decision to open himself.

Kevin Evans and Mark Bowen simply bowled straight and awaited developments. Nottinghamshire looked like getting away with it but, with 30 wanted, DeFreitas eased the tension by lifting Evans for a massive six over the wide mid-on boundary.

Another 10 runs were required from the final over, also bowled by Evans. The first three balls each produced the two that had always looked available on a big outfield before DeFreitas edged the penultimate ball for four somewhere into that unguarded territory behind the wicket-keeper.

Thomas revives champions after Lewis levels a wet playing field

By Derek Hodgson
at Bristol

Glamorgan 236 & 139
Gloucestershire 144 & 89
Glamorgan win by 111 runs

ALMOST every pundit called upon to assess Gloucestershire's credentials this season warned of a fallible batting order. It was just as well that play did not start

yesterday until 3.05pm, otherwise the champions might have been slipping their tea to the far side of the Severn Bridge. Gloucestershire's second innings lasted 29.3 overs.

Nevill Road has absorbed much water in the past three weeks and while David Bridle's men have done wonders to get play started the damp was always lurking below. Once the

cloud had lifted and the sun returned the pitch livened and became a torment for batsmen. Old stagers behind the arm were scornful of suggestions that it was a tabloid terror track but good seamers, and there are several in this match, were able to make the ball move laterally, swinging late and with varying lift.

So it was that Glamorgan, returning on the lofty height of 106 for 1, a lead of 92, went into dizzying decline, losing nine wickets in 80 balls in 70 minutes. The principal destroyer being not Courtney Walsh but the tall fast-medium 22-year-old Jon Lewis, whose return of 6 for 49, including a spell of 5 for 8 in 25 balls, was a career-best.

Lewis made a late start to last summer, through illness. Now he has filled out, looks stronger, has been coached by Bob Cottam and although still liable to stray he can bowl an awkward delivery. Walsh, with the wind, had no need to move out of second gear as batsmen waited in repitiation for the one that whistles past the nose.

Once Steve James, taken by a fine low catch at second slip, was seventh out the innings was doomed. Gloucestershire, needing 231 to win to four sessions, were 27 for 5 to 11 overs. This was very much Steve Watkins' last ball as the principal damage was done by the junior partner, Darren Thomas.

Not until captain Mark Alleyne arrived were Gloucestershire able to avoid humiliation. With Jack Russell, in kamikaze mode, he put on 19 and became the day's top scorer with some lusty pulls and drives, falling at 75 for 7 when tempted to cut a wider ball.

With 87 overs left to the weather this represented a Glamorgan two-day win, real champion style. Sadly, these performances say little for the technique of younger English batsmen in difficult conditions. What on earth would happen if the covers were taken off?

At Canterbury, Middlesex reached 146 for 5 in their rain-affected match against Kent, with the Australian Test batsman Justin Langer making 44. Rain prevented any play on day three between Surrey and Northamptonshire at The Oval, while overnight rain at The Parks put paid to Oxford University's match with Hampshire, with play abandoned without a ball being bowled.

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Gough going for opening victory

MENACING seam bowling on a helpful pitch by Chris Silverwood. Paul Hutchison and Darren Gough left Yorkshire with the apparent formality of completing an opening County Championship win over Somerset at Headingley today.

Somerset, chasing 351 to win, were in tatters at 46 for 5 by the close yesterday with two players - Piran Holloway and Graham Rose - suffering from flu. Rose was feeling so unwell that he went back to the team hotel in the afternoon, although he was summoned back again after three wickets had crashed in the first four overs of Somerset's second innings.

Silverwood, with 2 for 12, and Gough (11 for 21) did the early damage, and then Hutchison removed Rob Turner and Adrian Pierson in the same over. Earlier, Somerset avoided the follow-on when they were dismissed for 237 in their first innings, giving Yorkshire a lead of 146. In their second innings, Yorkshire's captain, David Byas, declared on 204 for 9, after he had produced the top score of 52, to set up the evening entertainment.

The former Sussex bowler Ed Giddins, making his first-class debut for Warwickshire after his ban for drug abuse, claimed 6 for 89 as Durham were bowled out for 305 in their first innings at Edgbaston.

However, the home side were then dismissed for just 187, with their new captain, Brian Lara, contributing a mere 13, leaving Durham with a victory target of only 219 today. John Wood and the former Northumbrian bowler Steve Harrison, 30, his Championship debut, did the damage with three wickets apiece.

Two former England men, Steve Rhodes and Richard Illingworth, helped put Worcestershire into a victory-chasing position against Essex at New Road. Both completed half-centuries to lift the home side to a total of 446 and a first-innings lead of 189. It left Essex with an uphill battle, which became even tougher when they slipped to 148 for 3 by the close.

At Canterbury, Middlesex reached 146 for 5 in their rain-affected match against Kent, with the Australian Test batsman Justin Langer making 44. Rain prevented any play on day three between Surrey and Northamptonshire at The Oval, while overnight rain at The Parks put paid to Oxford University's match with Hampshire, with play abandoned without a ball being bowled.

Cricket scoreboard

Britannic Assurance County Championship

Three days of four matches started

Gloucestershire v Glamorgan

BRISTOL: Gloucestershire (21st) vs Gloucestershire (1st) by 111 runs.

Gloucestershire won 144 & 89, Glamorgan 236 & 139.

Gloucestershire won by 111 runs.

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Kent v Middlesex

CANTERBURY: Middlesex (1st) vs Kent (1st) by 111 runs.

Middlesex won 144 & 89, Kent 236 & 139.

Middlesex won by 111 runs.

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Worcestershire v Essex

Worcestershire (1st) vs Essex (1st) by 111 runs.

Worcestershire won 144 & 89, Essex 236 & 139.

Worcestershire won by 111 runs.

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Nottinghamshire v Derbyshire

NOTTINGHAM: Derbyshire (1st) vs Nottinghamshire (1st) by 111 runs.

Derbyshire won 144 & 89, Nottinghamshire 236 & 139.

Derbyshire won by 111 runs.

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Sussex v Lancashire

SUSSEX: Lancashire (1st) vs Sussex (1st) by 111 runs.

Lancashire won 144 & 89, Sussex 236 & 139.

Lancashire won by 111 runs.

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Lancashire won by 111 runs.

Other first-class match

Oxford University v Hampshire

OXFORD: Hampshire (1st) vs Oxford University (1st) by 111 runs.

Hampshire won 144 & 89, Oxford University 236 & 139.

Hampshire won by 111 runs.

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Pitman on wrong track say Aintree

Racing

By Richard Edmondson

GRAND NATIONAL officials yesterday rushed to defuse the comments of the trainer Jenny Pitman, the so-called "Queen of Aintree", who believes that the race held earlier this month was a shameful contest which should never have been run.

Pitman said in a letter to Aintree's organisers that the National, during which there were three fatalities this year, should never again be run in such atrocious conditions. Only six of the 37 starters finished in murderously heavy going and one of them had to be remounted.

Pitman found the Grand National course to be in an "appalling" state after she walked it on the morning of the race. She immediately communicated her dismay to the executive. "We have the utmost respect for Jenny, who is extremely knowledgeable and obviously a great supporter of ours at Aintree," Charles Barnett, the course's managing director, said yesterday. "Any comments she makes are taken very seriously."

"Obviously, if we or anyone else had thought the course was unfit, racing would have been cancelled. This is not a decision made by the racecourse. It is made by the stewards on the day to keep it out of the commercial domain."

In a memorandum to Lord Daresbury, Aintree's chairman,

Pitman told how she warned the authorities on three occasions on the day of the race about the danger to horses. She claimed to have found holes up to a foot deep on her scouting expedition.

"We cannot defend ourselves to the public, to our owners, our horses, or live with our consciences if we allow our horses to race in such circumstances again," she said. "Changes need to be made to ensure we do not need to hang our heads in shame. I did not get much sleep on Saturday or Sunday night as I felt tainted over the events."

The trainer walked the course with Rodney Farrant, the jockey who was to ride her horse, Nahthen Lad. "By the time we reached Becher's Brook I was so distressed by the appalling state of the ground that I contacted my office," she said. "It was like trying to thread your way through a minefield to find a route down to Becher's."

"It took us one and a half hours to walk the Grand National course to find a safe route for our horse to take. I was extremely distressed at the state of the course which, in our opinion, was caused by the ground not being replaced after Thursday and Friday's racing."

Barnett maintains that considerable work had been done on the course after Pitman's inspection, but that her comments would be considered in the review undertaken by Aintree and the Jockey Club. Other factors that may be discussed

are Pitman's suggestion that the size of the field is reduced from the day of the race about the danger to horses. She claimed to have found holes up to a foot deep on her scouting expedition. "This is a private and confidential matter and I will continue to treat it as such," she said.

The main criticism, and Pitman is not the only complainer, is that the Aintree terrain was not properly repaired following the chewing up caused by the previous day's Foxhunters Chase. "There was nothing wrong really with the going for the National, but the husbandry left a little to be desired," Josh Gifford, whose Brave Highlander fell at the Canal Turn, said yesterday. "They should have had men on the track straight after the Foxhunters and the course should have been put back that night. Aintree have a lot on their plate, but with the amount it costs to run a horse in the National, everything should be right."

If the National needed a supportive spokesman it emerged yesterday in the shape of Nigel Twiston-Davies, who enjoyed success just over two weeks ago with Earth Summit. "I had no worries at all on the morning of the race," he said. "Mrs Pitman could have taken her horse [who fell at the 11th] out of the race. To whinge afterwards doesn't help anybody and doesn't help the image of the race."

Racing, page 29



Graeme Le Saux (front) and Rio Ferdinand tangle during England's training session at Bisham Abbey yesterday

Photograph: Ben Radford/Allsport

Gascoigne worry for Hoddle

Football

By Clive White

ENGLAND expects and 34 senior players dutifully reported for training at Bisham Abbey yesterday in preparation for Portugal tomorrow and beyond, even if some of them had to hobble along there. But before a ball had been kicked the Liverpool pair, Jamie Redknapp - as ever - and Dominic Matteo withdrew while serious doubts were raised about the availability of Paul Gascoigne, who did not train.

At this rate the nation could be sweating on Gazza's fitness and form right up until the start of England's opening World Cup game against Tunisia, since the England coach conceded he might take a chance "on one or

possibly two" doubtful starters among his final 22, which he names on June 2.

At least England are in better shape than they were for last month's disappointing 1-1 draw against Switzerland in Bern - "that was horrendous" - when they were hit hard by absenteeism, particularly from the country's two leading clubs, Arsenal and Manchester United.

But the latest setback for Gascoigne - an ankle injury sustained playing for his club Middlesbrough against Manchester City last Friday - is worrying, not so much the extent of it as yet another indication of the midfielder's brittleness. As it is, he has been playing with a groin injury these past few weeks. Hoddle, as ever, was keeping his faith in the resilience of arguably England's only truly creative talent.

Hoddle is understood to have already discounted the chances of Gascoigne facing a side at Wembley, who are well known for their wealth of midfield quality, although publicly he was maintaining there was still a possibility. "The ankle's improved but not as much as we would like," said Hoddle. "We've got a little bit more time but time is running out."

At one point Hoddle seemed to intimate that time was running out for his World Cup selection too - "it's a chicken and egg situation, he needs games" - but instead chose to finish his appraisal of his favourite footballer on an upbeat note. "He's had enough football left in him this season to recover from that [injury] to have no problems for me picking him come June 2."

It would appear to be a toss-up between Arsenal's Ray Parlour and Manchester United's Paul Scholes as to who will replace Gascoigne - if indeed the man is replaceable - and unlike the championship race the odds would seem to favour the Old Trafford player. Unless, that is, Hoddle chooses this game as the one to see what young David Beckham is made of in the pivotal position in midfield with Parlour given the right-sided berth. Hoddle does not have much time left to find out, if it is not too late already.

Redknapp would have been another contender but again the young player has been struck down by what Hoddle describes as "his England jinx". Redknapp, just back in the Liverpool team after injury, suffered a ligament strain playing against

Coventry on Sunday which will keep him out for possibly a few weeks. His team-mate, Matteo, gashed an instep in the same game while Steve McManis was another from the Anfield club who did not train, because of an ankle injury.

"It's incredible," Hoddle said with regards to Redknapp. "The bad luck he's had. Every time there's an England get-together or a match coming up or indeed every time he plays for England there's some sort of jinx against him. You scratch your head to wonder why it happens to him. I had a really long chat with him last night - he's a positive lad - and he'll bounce back. It's not as bad as we first thought - but it looks as though he's going to be out for a few weeks."

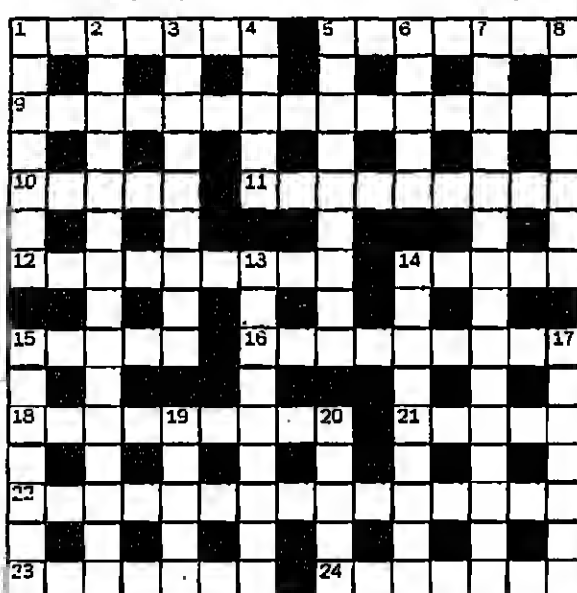
England B, page 30

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3590, Tuesday 21 April

By Aclred

Monday's Solution



ACROSS
1 Cancel escape into outer part (7)
5 Time spent on odd favourite instrument (7)
9 Broadcasting which is beneath one? (5,10)
10 Wife is in race in turn (5)
11 Revolutionary devotees maintain right of dock worker (9)
12 One dead on arrival? (9)
14 Some phraseology psychology uses for a migrant (5)
15 Jump about to conceal name of jurors? (5)
16 Class accepts learner at university will get in shape twice a month (9)
18 Runner's economy I have followed as a businessman (9)

DOWN
1 Game of cold war criminal (5)
2 Lacking political orthodoxy run off to Spain to get put up (15)
3 Nero, say, for one in Rome burning (7)
4 To dish up meal again could be the speciality of the uniformed (7)
6 Genuine about short urban performance (7)
7 Allowance cut - it can only just support one (11,4)
8 Aid client, being awkward, just the same (9)
9 Doctor, say, has reduced sediment (5)
5 Article on reform to do it after that point (9)
6 Bring together group of soldiers sent to Spain (5)

Heart murmur stalls Spencer move

By Alan Nixon

JOHN SPENCER'S £1.5m move to Everton is in doubt because a medical on the Scottish striker showed he has a heart murmur. The diminutive striker will undergo further medical tests this week.

Spencer was due to move from Queen's Park Rangers after impressing Everton's manager, Howard Kendall, during a loan spell and had agreed terms. Everton club doctors are trying to find out the nature of the murmur. Spencer has not had any trouble in the past and is shocked by the revelation. Other players have played on

despite having heart murmurs, but some transfers have also fallen through because of heart problems. Asa Hartford was the most famous case when Leeds called off a move in the Seventies when it was found he had a hole in the heart. Hartford played on well into his thirties and had a long career for club and country.

Everton had another surprise when they learned that the defender Mitch Ward fractured his ankle seven weeks ago, rather than suffering ligament damage as first thought. The club had hoped Ward might make the final matches of their battle against relegation but he will not

be able to play until next season. Ward was taken off against Newcastle on 28 February, but the fracture has only just been discovered. The player will undergo surgery tomorrow.

Kendall said: "We had the injury X-rayed and scanned immediately and the medical report we received showed no bone damage."

Everton have John O'Kane serving a one-match ban and Tony Thomas also out through injury for Saturday's home match against Sheffield Wednesday.

Representatives of Ruud Gullit have rejected Ken Bates' description of the former Chelsea coach as a "part-time

playboy manager". The Chelsea chairman wrote in the programme for Sunday's game against Sheffield Wednesday at Stamford Bridge that Chelsea were not prepared to pay Gullit while he "carried out his lucrative commercial contracts at the expense of his training".

Gullit's representatives, Jon and Phil Smith, have disputed those claims. Jon Smith said: "I find it incredible that Ken Bates should waste the ink in his pen writing such complete and utter fabrication. Of the four major contracts Ruud had none interfered with his job at Chelsea."

The row between Bates and

Gullit has been simmering ever since the latter's departure in February when he was replaced by Gianluca Vialli.

Birmingham City's 37-year-old captain, Steve Bruce, has opened contract talks after being offered a new one-year deal.

Bolton's manager, Colin Todd, is trying to sign Denmark's Bjorn Goldbaek, as a possible replacement for Alan Thompson, who has attracted the interest of several clubs.

The Middlesbrough striker Marco Branca will miss the last three matches of the season and any play-off ties because he needs a cartilage operation.

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